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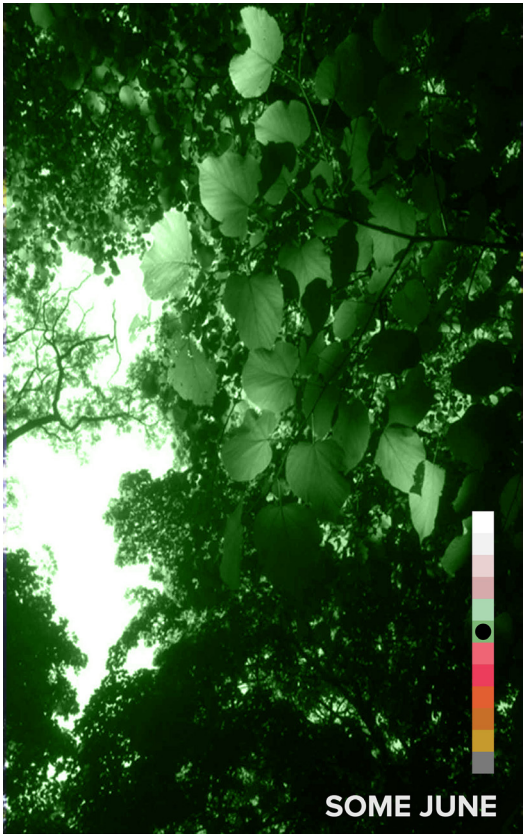
SOME JUNE

Introduction

This is an excerpt of the complete June diary: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BS8ZZM5P

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June is B Lydian Month. *Terranes*, from *Rifts*.[1]

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1. https://music.apple.com/ca/album/terranes/1455654938?i=1455655189 **(NOTE: All links can be accessed at: https://insumseries.blogspot.com/2023/01/some-june.html**

Mom and Dad, 6 months married:

June 1sts

6/1/1996, Saturday

Studio: "To The Brink". Bass 1 going through an octaver and the "lead bass" is played through a distortion pedal. Inspiration is Pino Palladino's part on Pete Townshend's "Face to Face".

6/1/1997, Sunday

Dream: Saw tornado come down with tentacles reaching out and grabbing things. Then it turned into a black woman in a blue sequined dress.

6/1/1998

The act of creating and playing music represents the mysteriousness of being human. Once machines can reproduce a mysterious experience, there's nothing left to call "soul"—or will there be a distinction between human soul and "machine soul"?

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What I'm trying to do with the pieces on *Miles From Mars* is to make "facsimiles" of music that sound like jazz but really aren't.

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Many musical artists balk at the discussion of music theory because it closes off the idea that making music is free of any rules, and like Woodstock, once the "free concert" word got out, it's not like they could just decide to start charging admission. With "Miles" I was making a conscious effort to avoid following traditional musical concepts and creating a new conceptual space, right down to the titles I would give them and the design of the album cover.

I think what we'll see in the future are music mixes that are released like software, or revisions are made and re-released. I think we're in a situation where the computer metaphor will be heavily applied to music.

It's not so much what an individual has abilities in, but rather the state by which abilities can develop.
Interesting article in the Tribune about new film *The Truman Show* and another chapter in the series of criticism, this time architecture. Lots of ways to apply criticism of film to criticism of music.

6/1/2003, Sunday

Went gallery-hopping. Most interesting: prints made from strips of arranged negatives, camera on motor drive, sequenced frames of buildings, which look "destroyed".

6/1/2004

Off. Worked on music all day. Took long walk and took photos for *Dynaxiom*.6/1/2006

To theater to see Al Gore's version of "Fahrenheit 9/11", *An Inconvenient Truth*. There's so much "genre" in this film: liberal propaganda, infomercial, "PowerPoint Cinema", yet I found that I liked it. Gore is surprisingly relaxed and centered and seemed genuine. (The political world has a tendency to destroy personality).

6/1/2009

GM files for bankruptcy. The tectonics of history will be taking us to a new, strange place. The generation 2005-2025 will grow up in the time of austere renewal which will lead to the kind of America that their children will experience. The car culture of 1946-2005 is finished. If humans live by the extensions of themselves cars, electronics, etc.). What will be the next extension?

6/1/2010

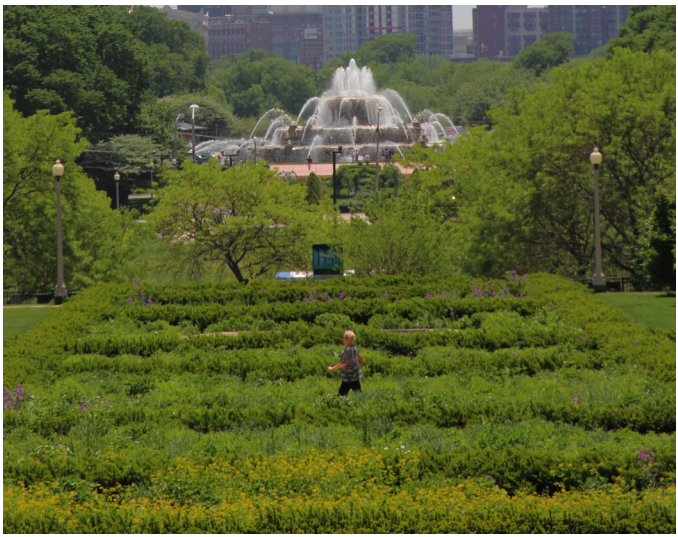
BP takes another junk shot by sawing the pipe completely off—the riskiest maneuver. This is a good metaphor for major life decisions: just make a clean break and deal with the consequences.

Dr. B.: As usual wait 90 minutes to be seem for 90 seconds. Sometimes an emergency room is all you need.

6/1/2011

Beginning of meteorological summer, and absolutely gorgeous day! Took long walk with camera at noon.

Interesting: When I took this shot several other people took the same shot. Whenever I see someone taking a shot, I never repeat it. I would imagine there are no less than 10 of these on the Internet. [2022: this is now completely replaced with the (awful) Maggie Daley Park. As much as I admired what the Daleys did for Chicago, this was not a good idea.]



6/1/2017

The best way to construct melody (in songwriting) is to sing words (either with existing lyrics, or just random words) over some kind of accompaniment (preferably piano), but a guitar or bass can be used. Sometimes just a beat or loop can work, over which you can improvise a melody. I find melodies easier to write from words, because the melody (prosody) is already there.

Writing melody in through-composed music (classical) is more "architectural", using motifs, cells, and other elements to build out larger forms. Melody in that context is reliant on how well you can use the limitations.

6/1/2018, Friday

Strategy: Always have at least three things in progress simultaneously. Also, let the piece incubate: leave the studio and let your mind resolve the bottlenecks.

***

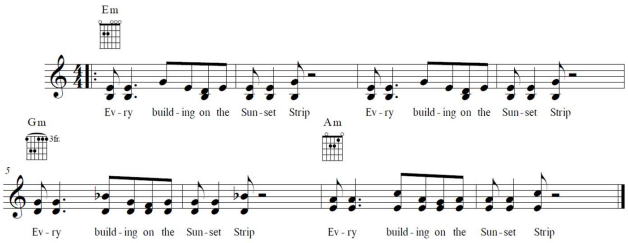
Pop music has never been completely about the music. Over the past decades music (in the Enlightenment sense, as craft) has been pushed further to the background. It could also be seen more as a form of ersatz cultural ritual, where the "music" serves to tell a story or narrative, or to proscribe "tribal" boundaries.

Some people think Baroque and Classical music is awful and they use it as a repellent. It is difficult to fathom, but it's a reality.

6/1/2021

Layers of attention (sound walk from a couch): In the background are the civil defense sirens as well as the birds and a really high-pitched sound that I can't identify. The sirens have calming pure interval drone effect, against the calming kind of a drone in the background and traffic noise and other loud events as well as a jet flying over.

Music for *Every Building On the Sunset Strip.* References the finish-fetish car culture of the 1960s.



Listened to a talk by Rupert Sheldrake about pilgrimages. He was saying that tourism is the new form of pilgrimage. I think a lot of well-meaning people that go to various places, either as a pilgrim or as a tourist must realize that there are things in that location that they might not agree with. So the question becomes, Do I go there anyway? Like the Alamo—people go there for different reasons, either to see the lies, or avoid the place based upon its history. Yet people make pilgrimages there and some imbue the whole activity as being sacred in some way, laying flowers for those that died and not fully knowing why. This whole idea of going

to these different places as being kind of neutral and spiritual in a very general sense is partially true; you feel the vibe of the place but is it a true vibe and if you really learned what went on there would the vibe change. How can Phil Collins revisit the Alamo based on what we know now, and what power, or lack of power do all the objects have that he's collected?

Also listened to an interview David Pearce, a transhumanist who began his work back in the mid 90s. He was talking about the hedonic treadmill, the downward bias that's built into evolution. Consequently, we have a bias towards being depressed. Culture also has a hedonic treadmill that we have to be on all the time—the constant striving to be popular and to do whatever is necessary to be popular, which now equates with survival.

June 2nds

6/2/1944, Friday

(Diary of Anne Frank)

Anne writes to Kitty and mentions her new Rx for gunfire anxiety which involves making noise by walking noisily up and down the stairs which masks the gun shots.

6/2/1997

Timothy McVeigh guilty on all counts.

6/2/1999

Another attempted shooting at a local high school. School violence now an epidemic.

6/2/2000, Friday

Impression: Jackie Chan and John Woo films—you see them only for the action—even if the story is stupid—you don't care. Films don't always have narratives, just as good songs can have vapid lyrics.

Possible lyric (Inspired by China's and Russia's balking at SDI):

We have to let each other destroy ourselves
It would be unfair to let me destroy you

***

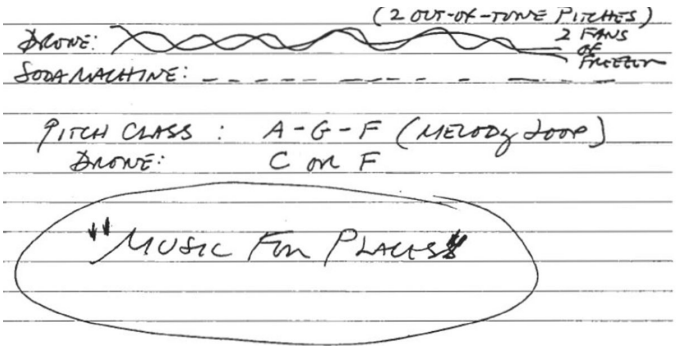
Film: *American Psycho*. I'm a bit puzzled by this—is it about narcissism, misogyny or self-hatred or all three? Line I liked: "So what line of work are you in?" Reply: "Murders and Executions". Also funny: "business card wars".

6/2/2001, Saturday

Cold, windy, gray and rainy, only 55!

6/2/2006, Friday

You can hear music anywhere if you just notice it. Like in the Spa Cafe on Monroe Street in the Loop: the freezer makes a canorous humming sound. In the background faintly is the sound of a soda machine,- clicking like and insect or bird of some kind. If I were to re-create it, it would be like this:



6/2/2017, Friday

The beauty of piano, as opposed to guitar as a chordal instrument, is that the chords are all "good", and at best "better" to play.

6/2/2020

Reading is an encoder of memory using "frames" or "stills" in the mind. With focused attention, your mind will be doing this at all times, even without reading, although people that read attain focus more than people that don't or just skim over life. Words also have rhythm and prosody which can evoke musical elements.

6/2/2021

It's sometimes interesting to look at culture as kind of an industry—like a steel mill with blast furnaces that have to be constantly stoked. First you feed it with coal then you have to retool it to use different kinds of fuel. That's what technology and culture is like when you're young. It's your first "fuel" and you're okay with constantly stoking the furnace, getting all the heat and product out of it. But after a few re-toolings you just get tired of it. Culture can get really tedious and then you just go back to the original one or one that you were fine with before.

6/2/2022

Ah, the soft-focus of a June morning. The current book I'm reading is *Black Mass: The Apocalyptic Religion and the Defeat of Utopia* by John Gray. I've always loved his work. He's very depressing but a superb philosopher and writer. This passage rang true: "Human knowledge tends to increase but humans do not become more civilized as a result they remain prone to every kind of barbarism and while the growth of knowledge allows

them to improve their material conditions it also increases the savagery of their conflicts." This was written in 2007 and one of the primary themes in the book is the war in Iraq. It's an excellent book to revisit to see what was going on back then in retrospect and you can see the thread to the current day with movement conservatives trying to create a coup in the United States.

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A big thing now is the dash-cam driving video with people riding around in their cars as a tour of a location. You can go to any place around the globe and drive around. Interestingly, in a lot of places there are no sidewalks. They're not even factored into urban planning, or there are specific walking paths that people have to drive to. Everything involves a car so everything makes a deeper carbon footprint. Idea: "Don't go anywhere day" when you won't use your vehicle at all.

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Biden: "Enough, Enough" calling for assault weapons ban and new red flag laws. Everyone in the US wants their cake and eat it too: they say they want gun control but vote the opposite. Anyone who owns property is "this" far away from sitting on their porch with a rifle.

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I've never run out of ideas. I simply will never have the time to do something with them. Even completed works can be rearranged and recycled such that they

sound completely different from the original. If you see pre-existing form as seed material there are many possible permutations.

June 3rds

6/3/1967, Saturday

(Beatles Studio Diary)

Studio Two: Tracks on George's "I Don't Know". "It was for the first time on a Beatle recording, a bass guitar superimposition only, something which would become more commonplace during and after 1967.

6/3/1998

Dream: Paul McCartney and George Harrison (circa 1966) were at my parents' old house writing and performing songs. Another fragment where I was trying to convince them that we should celebrate the summer solstice religiously.

6/3/2003

There should be only prequels, not sequels. In a sequel, your intention is to annex your original ideas, when in fact you are rethinking or reshaping. In a prequel, you add back what you left out, which is more interesting for the viewer, as they assumed you left even more out, and will want to see the next prequel. You "roll out" a narrative bit-by-bit, not blow the whole wad and take more later.

6/3/2009

Reagan statue is unveiled. Not only does it make him immortal, it announces the end of the Reagan era (error) in the chapter of American history penultimate to the Great Depression 2.0. It is also ironic how black the statue is--the color that symbolizes his conflict with African-Americans.

Interesting: "Serial" thinking: creating in series, making one object and 2-3 similar ones.

6/3/2010

Day 1 of Blago trial. Now 8 weeks or more with a sociopath in your face.

The nice weather brings out the BP demonstrators protesting for BP execs heads on a spike. While the spill looks like a rare catastrophe, the real truth is that the fossil fuel business is a dirty business in more ways than one, and has happened ad nauseam in other parts of the globe for decades in Nigeria, Ecuador, Venezuela.

Such a beautiful day. Took stroll to new Trump Plaza, a maze of stairways that go nowhere—Escher meets suburban cul de sac. Stopped at photo exhibit of Maxwell street Blues musicians. Ran into Kent R. Went to Apple Store to see and fondle the iPad. Not impressed. It's big and heavy and hard to hold, unlike a smartphone that you can clutch in your hand. I can't imagine how anyone could feel productive using it as it has an almost bizarre sense of affordance: what is its use beyond

an entertainment device? It's only redeeming quality for me is for use as a sound controller.

Life strategy: When you pursue a goal always concentrate on the penultimate or ulterior steps. If your ultimate goal is to find musicians for your group, do things that would make that happen.

6/3/2011, Friday

6/3/2017, Saturday

There is lots of contradiction on the paradox of free will. Even physicists, who typically do not believe in free will, will say they love their spouse. Is the act of love not free will, or are we brought together merely as actors, with no room for interpretation of our lines?

6/3/2021

I find Marianne Williamson interesting. She can straddle the two worlds of the spiritualist and the presidential candidate. You wouldn't think that they would inform one another but they actually do. This is how it works in my life as well: there's the cerebral and intellectual part, then there's the other part that's just a plain old musician, and sometimes they inform one another in an integral way.

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The "wide horizons" approach to creativity: One reason you want both science and spirituality in your artwork or your music is that it widens your horizon. You get to access different levels and you can take and leave whatever you want. If you're not interested in certain bits of science then don't use it. If you're not interested in certain bits of spirituality, astrology and all that stuff don't use it or just use a part of it—and then just mix it in with the other stuff and it's the best of all worlds.

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It goes without saying that technologies solve problems and they create new problems. Popular music solved a lot of the problems of classical music, but it created other ones. The one that I always cite is that it created a sense of superiority or elitism, even though they weren't aware of it. Then it took something to push back against that and now there's things pushing back against pop music as I knew it from the 60s through

the 80s and 90s. And there will be things that will be fixed in the future and creating more problems as well.

6/3/2022

Queen's 70th Platinum Jubilee begins.

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In many ways I think the Singularity is already here. The fact that we've been on social media for 10 or 15 years now means that most much of our lives are online and they're stored there in perpetuity. But is it really us? Even when you have in-person interaction there's always a social media account in the background. How deep are our social media footprints? I started my Twitter account in 2007 and YouTube in 2006. I thought it was a boon for creative people to share their work and to find collaborators but it's shifted over the years and will continue shifting, but will never return to the original iteration, just like we won't go back to a Cronkite-era talking head.

Younger people have been on social media since they were kids so it's a different world but somehow those worlds can come together in an artistic space where there's a trusting collaboration.

I still like the idea of the "scenius" but I don't think that's going to be happening in physical spaces. People will be collaborating as "icebergs" where there is lots below the surface that is invisible but is supporting the whole structure. We will then realize how similar we

are: we both won't be able to see everything—until we take the plunge and scuba dive. Will we all like what we see? We should be able to see it in retrospect as being righteous and in good faith. Even if it went awry you created some kind of content that was lasting and had trust embedded in it.

June 4ths

6/4/1968

(Beatles Studio Diary)

A day of curious overdubs on "Revolution I". John recorded his vocal lying flat on the floor. He was having hissy fits, claiming that the tape machine was always breaking down, and later apologized. Paul and George did background voices consisting of just the words "mama" and "dada".

6/4/1995, Sunday

(Eno Diary)

"It's hard working when Sunday-afternoon light is streaming in through the windows. Not very enthused; left at 8:00 to go back to Killincy. Danton drove me—beautiful sunset on the sea."

***

Finished "Tube Voyeur". Marshall McLuhan had talked about TV being a "hot" medium—that we couldn't interact with it. But we're already talking about interactive TV and the specter of mass surveillance.

6/4/1998

Sitting at kitchen table with morning sun beaming gloriously through window. I love this time of year, in stark contrast to December, when I shiver in this very spot.

6/4/1999, Friday

Suffering from "why me" syndrome. Paranoia forces you to look at things that are the cusp of illusion and reality and either of the can be true.

6/4/2000, Sunday

Crappy day-frigid for June. 58 degrees.

Studio: Mastering of *Melange II*.

Apparently, Chris in Al's band likes "Blame It on America" and wants to do it in his band. Funny how the stuff you dislike the most is the favorite of everyone else.

6/4/2001

Almost 2 weeks of cold and rain, 52 degrees.

6/4/2003

The FCC approved relaxing regulations prohibiting media consolidation. Now there is a lower threshold, and media companies can consolidate as much as they want. It's bad because you see the same stories in lots of

different places, which might make people assume it's true, or good advice, when in fact it might not be. If 3 out of 4 people tell a lie, you assume it's true, and it's easier to tell lies.

6/4/2010, Friday

Good sleep = happiness

BP fix idea: Encase all well BOP devices in a containment silo (like a cooling tower). For new wells, silos can be of rigid material. For existing wells, a flexible material can be used, and 'spun' (in a spider-like fashion) around rods in the ocean floor to form a 'placenta' to contain spills.

Dynaxiom: If actors can become governors and presidents, it's not such a stretch to think that artists can be scientists.

6/4/2011, Saturday

Oppressively hot and humid, cooling storms later in the day.

Went to Chicago Dramatists performance: *Hickory Dickory* with P. Acting was excellent, but I'm not so sure about the writing. Using the pocket watch as a metaphor for abstract concepts of time seems a bit too aw-shucks or quaint. A bed of ambient space music quietly in the background would have been effective. Awful dinner at Silver Palm Saloon in an old train din-

ing car. Really bad po-boy sandwich with deep-fried popcorn shrimp on a enormous roll, people smoking...

6/4/2017, Sunday

Studio: "Stygian", Tempo=67

One of my strategies is to "turn on the synths, and tune the guitars, and play and use the first thing you play". This doesn't last long because the "System 2" behaviors quickly take control, as they should. If I "surrender" all the time, and keep using these ideas, it will make for terrible work. So I say, stay in System 1 as long as possible, then go into System 2. At some point in System 2, let System 1 take control again, then finish.

6/4/2021, Friday

Music direction is a specific skill and requires management and leadership skills. If the musicians are for-hire this is easier to do because they are getting paid to follow directions.

The best leaders get the best results because they admire and respect the talents of the individual players. In my experience, a demo recording, plus lead sheets should be enough to get some satisfactory results. There have been times when I've written around the talents of specific players because they were so unique.

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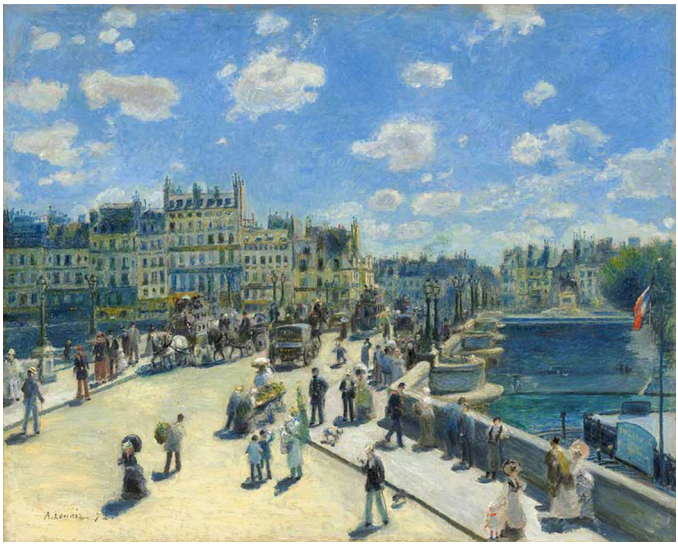
"Oak tree from the acorn" idea: Was just listening to a one-on-one interview with Daniel Dennett. He's getting quite elderly now but he's still has a really sharp mind. Two things: one, he was talking about cells having an individuality. If I understand correctly, this would be the primary source of one's self-actualization. It dictates who you are individually, not your family or the tribe or any larger social structures, and two, post-modernism and the whole idea of just kind of being a slave to ideas and not being concerned about the truth at all. I've been thinking about that a lot lately as well: There are two similarities for me: there's the initial intentions, the sincerity in what I'm doing as a function of self-actualization which isn't concerned about culture, which I get so tired of. People follow the crowd to seem cool, when in fact they ignore the attraction to their own "cellular" individuality. But to maintain cool, they feed the culture machine or "furnace".

June 5ths

6/5/1898, Sunday (Paris)

(Count Harry Kessler Diary) (Summary) [1]

Pont Neuf by Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1872)



Thoughts about Germans: not industrious, dutiful, only works for money or out of habit. Thinks German talents are half-talents, born salesman, commentator, a daydreamer and beer-drinker.

1. Kessler, Harry. Journey to the Abyss: The Diaries of Count Harry Kessler, 1880-1918. United Kingdom, Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2011.

6/5/1944

(Diary of Anne Frank)

"Fifth Army has taken Rome. The city neither destroyed nor bombed. Great propaganda for Hitler...Very few potatoes and vegetables. One loaf of bread was moldy....Bad weather. Continuous bombing of Pas de Calais and the west coast of France....No one buying dollars. Gold even less interesting."

6/5/1995

(Eno Diary)

"Walking home along the beach (from the station to the temple at Killiney): deep-blue sky, still able to see stones at 11.00. I looked up and saw two seals breaking the water just yards away."

6/5/1998, Friday

On "Amnesia": People always ask, "What the hell are you saying?" The phrases, "I forget" and "I can't remember anything" were broken and divided over multiple tracks and layered over one another. I like to manipulate language in this way, such that the woven words trick the brain into hearing various other words and phrases.

6/5/2000

Musicians can "color the moment". "Coloring the moment" is where you spontaneously express something to make subtle changes in the music as it unfolds, e.g. changing a chord quality, rhythm, and so on.

It's easier to defend a position in art than it is in politics, and is so much more profound.(Art as politics without the "politics").

6/5/2001

Cloudy and cold for almost 3 weeks.

Idea: put a big stuffy chair with a lamp beside it on stage for band performances. (It makes the stage a room. No one ever sits in the chair, but gives the impression that someone could if they wanted to).

New book to check out: *The Botany of Desire* by Michael Pollan. Interesting: plants evolved to be attractive to humans, but rather we favor certain ones and they thrive.

U.S. Senate does flip-flop to democratic control.

6/5/2004, Saturday

Ronald Reagan died at 93. It's all over the news—you don't even hear about Iraq. It's important that a president be likable, even if you don't like them. (Bush never had likability and neither did Al Gore). It's easier to sell

people something when you make them comfortable. (How did Bush do it?) You really feel for Nancy—she had to live and care for someone who forgot who she was. So tragic.

The commemoration of Reagan will remind us of what we want to forget about Bush.

Interesting: a collective memory of someone who forgot. (We remember for them).

Years of presidential scandal will besmirch greatness.

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(Neil Peart):

"In 30 years of traveling around the United States, I have seen how entrenched Evangelical Christianity was in American life. Just before setting off for Nashville, I had read that 83% of Americans called themselves Christians, and half of Americans believe that God created humans pretty much in our present born at one time within the past ten thousand years. It seemed pointless to try to fight that tide of faith, even with the weapon of the laws of logic, and I thought, "I give up." my blustering was not going to change anybody's mind, and there was no sense alienating people and making enemies. You can reason with people's minds, but you can't argue with their faith."

6/5/2007

Started field recordings for *Music For Places* project. Interesting: ear mics are the inverse of headphones, and when you listen to field recordings through them, you are essentially time-shifting and place-shifting aural perceptions.

6/5/2009, Friday

They demolished a whole block of buildings in Oak Park, including the Colt building. There's just a blank, bleak space now, a blank surface to develop, which will most likely be replaced with the usual: parks and parking lots. But it's interesting now with the ugly buildings razed as you can see the beautiful buildings behind them. I would put a European town square there, and exciting place of cafes, art, fountains and greenery.

6/5/2011, Sunday

Day In Our Village festival in Oak Park. Gorgeous day, markedly different from the torrid temps of yesterday.

Looking up from the park bench in Austin Gardens. Sound of Shakespeare Theatre troupe in background.

6/5/2047

(Anthony Townes Diary)

Gates Park in beautiful weather. Stone tomorrow (Ugh).

6/5/2047

(Neone Diary)

Josef: "I still think Tony needs DBS". I wish he'd get off my ass about this. This annoys Ramona as well.

June 6ths

6/6/1907 (Paris)

(Kessler Diary)

Lunch with Rodin who reminisced about the late '70s, early '80s monthly "Dinner of the Cossacks".

6/6/1944

(Diary of Anne Frank)

"This is D Day," the BBC announced at twelve. "This is the day." The invasion has begun!...BBC broadcast in English: "This is 0 Day." General Eisenhower said to the French people: "Stiff fighting will come now, but after this the victory. The year 1944 is the year of complete victory. Good luck!""

6/6/1962

(Beatles Studio Diary)

In studio recording "Love Me Do", "P.S. I Love You", "Ask Me Why".

6/6/1966

(Beatles Studio Diary)

Fourth anniversary of Beatles first visit to EMI. In studio for Revolver tracks, "I Want To Tell You", "Tomorrow Never Knows", "Eleanor Rigby".

6/6/1989

(Keith Haring Journal) [2]

"In Europe since last Thursday....Every time I come to Europe I think I'm going to live forever."

6/6/1998, Saturday

Cold, dark, and rainy. This is the weirdest June whether I have ever seen. Even my skin is cracking like it does in November.

The Blues Fest starts today. (Blues is so dependent on its outside elements—booze, smoking, drugs, sex) as indicated by its audience. I can recall those days when I did all those things, and blues was always the

2. https://www.haring.com/!/archives/journals

soundtrack. The question is whether hedonism creates a space where blues can exist, or, the other way around. (Hard to write this on train.)

Film: *Bulworth*. What a waste of time. Warren Beatty just trying to be a "boy in the hood" plugged into a story involving the president. While it is inconceivable that such a thing happened, it is nevertheless interesting in that somehow it might be advantageous for a white president to have a bit more soul, but not to the point of snorting coke at a dance club. (I should have walked out of this movie. Moreover, the bad sight lines gave me a stiff neck.

6/6/2000

Impression: Mary Schmich's "I will not" column. I should reply, "I will not respond to Mary Schmich's column. "(Her story was surely a recipe for couch potatoes. Surely there's many things we will ever do, but when you ask the question why you should do something, it eliminates even wanting to do something. The problem with defining your limitations is that it gives you more room to make limits, and eventually you've become a limited person, when in fact you have the capacity to do much more if you can give up and not feel guilty it's a good thing, otherwise forge ahead.

6/6/2001

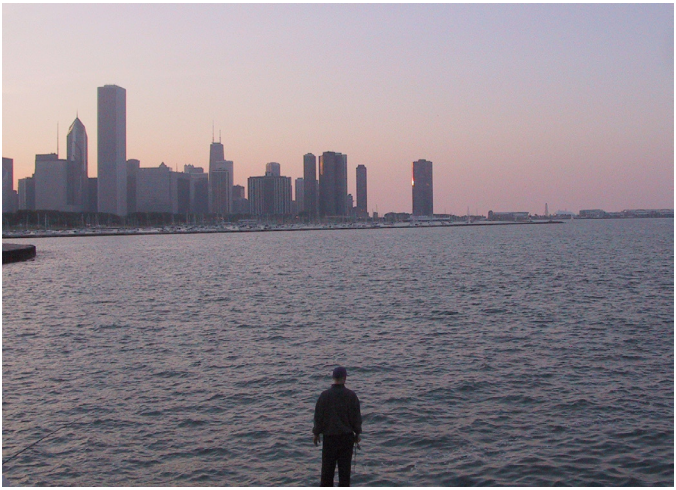
Some paradoxical wisdom: When you come to a fork in the road, take it.

Timothy McVeigh execution set for June 11. Too bad, he'll die without making his point. Martyrdom is not so easy. A true martyr inspires revolutions.

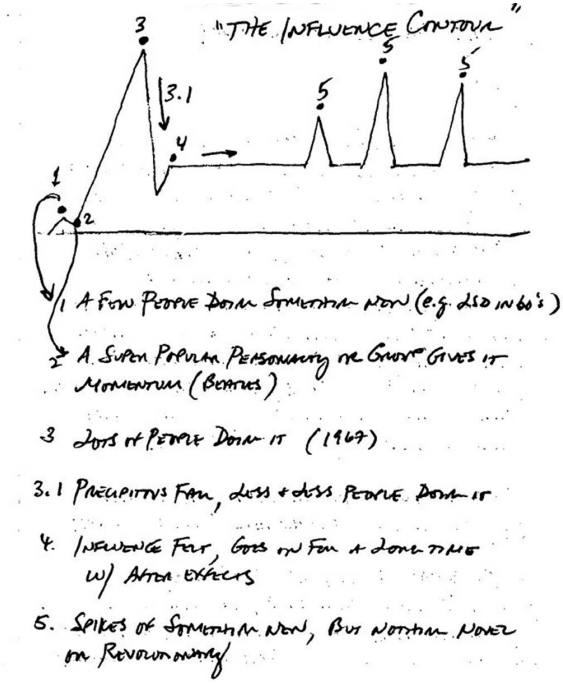
6/6/2002, Sunday

All artists are pretentious because art is conceived by pretending, acting out how it might look before actually doing it. It is practice for the real thing. So when people call you "pretentious", they are saying "you're just practicing".

By the Planetaarium:



The Influence Contour:



6/6/2003, Friday

Polls indicate Osama Bin Laden is more popular than George Bush.

6/6/2004, Sunday

60th anniversary of D-Day. Interesting how it happened in context with Reagan's death. We replay the memories of the remembered in the event that they forgot, or lost the ability to remember.

The US is wont to keep on using the "beachhead" approach for ridding the world of evil, but we never look at more cunning options: A beachhead in Afghanistan.

(Neil Peart, Roadshow, Page 127)[3]

"We followed a perfect country road along a high bluff, with fields on our right hand views to our left, down over the river and across to wooded Kentucky. "He is no respecter of persons", said church sign. The quote was attributed to the Book of Acts, and I decided to look it up. It turned out to be God who was no respecter of persons, meaning that when it came to Judgment Day, he didn't care who you were. At the time of looking that up, I happened to be reading Walter Kaufman's "critique of religion and philosophy" , and noted the passage that put in our ironic spin on that reference."

6/6/2005

The "uses" and abuses of music are dynamic and change throughout history. Some people listen to classical music on little tiny clock radios ("just a little something in the background"). A good example of an abusive music is what it is used as jingo, with intentionally bad musicianship.

3. Peart, Neil. Roadshow: Landscape with Drums : a Concert Tour by Motorcycle. Toronto, Ont: ECW, 2012. Print.

6/6/2010, Sunday

Absolutely gorgeous day. Annual Day In Our Village. Did a 60 Minutes recording: FL Wright Home and Studio, church bells, bell tower Scoville Park, resale shop, more bells, organ.

***

On how the Internet is rewiring our lives: You are constantly encountering thousands of people, but like the stream of data that flows through your life, goes unnoticed most of the time. We still all have our preferences for all types of things, including people. I will agree that with so many interesting things at our fingertips, sometimes the less interesting fall to the background.

6/6/2021, Sunday

Went down to Saganashkee Slough. Somehow the name of the place suggested a chorus idea: "We're goin' to the Sag-a-nash-kee Slough, Sag-a-nash-kee Slough..."

[This eventually became *Moonrise in Hernandez*] [4]

6/6/2022

A Composer could be called a "Sound Creator" because that's essentially what they're doing. "Sound Creators" are also known as audio artists, who are focused on timbre rather than writing music in notation. Some are both such as John Cage or Stockhausen,'or any mu-

5. https://youtu.be/QIxG3lkhwQs

sician that creates some kind of score or diagrammatic representation of sound.

6/6/2047

(Anthony Townes Diary)

With Dr. Stone for 4-week tel-up. I learned later that Stone was trying to sell the idea of giving me deep-brain stimulation treatments. That's like saying your boyfriend needs prior personality restoration with "Infinite Plasticity Without Compromising Personality" mumbo-jumbo. Ne-one said Stone was also reminding (gaslighting) her of her immortality "privileges" and being a designer baby.

June 7ths

6/7/1989

(Keith Haring Journal)

"Had lunch with Yoko and Sam Havadtoy and then went shopping for a vase for her performance tonight....We went to see an incredible installation by Nam Jun Paik at the MoMA of Paris. Its amazing what images he gets out of a TV screen and the speed with which they change. This is what television as an art form is all about...."

6/7/1995

(Eno Diary)

"...why is it so hard to pay attention to anything on a screen?). I feel no difficulty whatsoever in ignoring most of it. Worked with my new super-fast computer on Photoshop to generate Swarowski images - geometry. Picked up Irial from school. We all went to see Peter Gabriel in evening at his enormous new/semi-derelict house in Holland Park."

6/7/1998, Sunday

Dream: Met Elvis Costello. He was working as a soda jerk at Woolworth's. He made me an orange chiffon smoothie. We had a little chat about musical things, but he seemed preoccupied with making the smoothie.

Impression: the stone sculptors in Africa. They make what they want in their own way, independent of Western influence and find a truly unique style. (But there is American and everything now, because it's cool).

6/7/2004

Transit of Venus across the Sun at 6:15, an event not seen since 1882. It has happened only 6 times in the telescopic age—1631, 1639, 1761, 1769, 1874, 1882. Next performance in 2012 and 2117.

Idea: Take common occurrences and make conspiracies out of them. For example, Reagan's death was planned so that the GOP could use the Reagan eulogies as political influence.

Dynaxioms: Avoid the following epitaph: "He lost and didn't even try to win.", "Fate is like a surveillance camera. It sees you when you think it's not there.", "Light never ages, it just travels further."

6/7/2005

Story idea: World where humans have devolved, such that they have lost abilities, traits, emotions, empathy because they have atrophied through non-use.

Dynaxiom: All humans have some addiction to their own animal nature.

6/7/2010

Interesting: Now that I have been doing more field recording I've noticed that my attention is drawn to sonic events rather than things that I see that might be pictorial for a photograph or painting.

Is it me or is it true that our senses cannot multitask? Try it for yourself: focus on a sound, a smell, a sight and see if one of the other senses may have missed something. Also interesting: 'Facebookiness' (to have the style of a casual social occasion, not heady or boring). On lists: perhaps I should create lists on colors: White (most everyone), Gray (some people)...

6/7/2011

Torrid, 100 degrees. This doesn't bother me, and I quite like it actually. The media has a penchant for making every weather event that isn't a nice day seem like the end of the world. If you live long enough you just don't believe it. Hot years I recall: 1987-1988, 1995. It was in the 100s for weeks and no one mentioned global warming, yet it was indeed happening then.

6/7/2012

Mills Park, long summer evening:

6/7/2017

Heliostatic:

6/7/2021

Ideally, what you want in music as a player and as a composer is something that's "high context"—where things are tacitly implied and you don't have to specify everything. You should be able to give a chord chart to the guitar player and then they'll work it out. You don't have to specify anything else. It is *exformation*.

***

In Japanese woodworking there's a joinery that's used that's very unique. When you look at how they build things—as opposed to how we just throw stuff together now—there's certainly something we can gain from doing it the old way, but we always seem to choose the new crappy way because culture is forcing us to pay more attention to it. We have to do the most stupid thing because that's what's going to get the most attention and that's crucial in an attention economy.

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More on the "Oak Tree From the Acorn" idea: It doesn't really matter ultimately how you were raised. I think people are going to go their individual ways regardless of what's in the DNA or what's in the environment, which tends to make me want to place more emphasis on the idea that there is some kind of preordained Self in the universe that we're connected to. So it doesn't matter what your tribe is or what your family is—you're just going to go your own way anyway. I find it in spades in my family because none of us followed

what my father did. My father was an ironworker and none of the sons followed in his footsteps—although I think i got a lot of my creative skills or proclivities from my Dad's side. I think my mother was creative in some ways, but I think I got more of the production creativity from my father as a kind of builder. I became a builder early on with playing with blocks and Legos and then having an interest in architecture as a result. For the most part I'm sort of following my own nose. I like the idea that you're connected to the universe in some way so you have to kind of capitulate to that option and hopefully it will work either way. If you capitulate to the family business or family traditions that might not necessarily work either so I think it has to be a mix of everything.

June 8ths

6/8/1927, Glendale

(Edward Weston Daybooks)[5]

Prepares shell negatives to show to (wealthy) pupils of B. but they bought nothing. They think he's hungry for praise and not money. He is sick of having to show his prints so often that he detests every one of them. Perhaps this will have inspire new works.

6/8/1993

I've always had a sense of adventure and resourcefulness while composing music. Very often these experiments

5. Weston, Edward. The Daybooks of Edward Weston: California. United States, Aperture, 1973.

are the result of accidents that happen while working on something else—what creativity guru Michael Michalko calls a "find". For instance on "Brain Traffic" the keyboard had crashed and was making some unexpected sounds, which I captured on tape. (This of course is a far cry from making pretty love songs but no less important in the large scheme of creative processes.)

6/8/1995 (Munich)

(Eno Diary)[6]

Eno in ("dreadful") Munich working with Andre Wilms on an "incomprehensible play". It was twenty years ago on this day he and Fripp played at the London Palladium, the only performance that his parents attended. After the show his Dad said, "Cor! That was loud, boy."

6/8/1998

Change for Windows 98 log-off screen: "It is now unsafe to turn *on* your computer"

Interesting that Greeks in Alexandria created an amalgam of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian. This is similar to what musicians do today, we're creating is more "curating". [In his recent book (2020), *The Decadent Society*, Ross Douthat posited that repetition through Remix was a symptom of decadence—a continuous remix of nostalgias, rather than an effort to create something from scratch with a spiritual underpinning].

6. Eno, Brian. A Year with Swollen Appendices. Boston, Faber & Faber, 1996.

6/8/2000

Idea for a letter to Eric Zorn regarding his "condensed movie" idea: Short movies are not what you want. What you want is a way of remembering all the films you want to see. The way you do this is to have some type of barcode reader, so that when you see something that you'd like to see, you can save it to your personal organizer. Even if it's a two-year-old movie, you want to see it because you made note of it earlier that it was interesting.

Judge orders Microsoft break up.

Lights out for 4 hours, 7-11P. Went out right when I was watching a piece on Lehrer about the New York play, "Charlie Victor Romeo" about plane crashes. (Interesting: taking pre-existing text and making drama). See this if it comes to town.

6/8/2001, Friday

Impression: The music of Chelino Sanchez, a convicted narco. He uses corny Mexican polka with extreme lyrics about drug dealing. (What is interesting is the clash between the sweetness of the music and the controversial topic of the lyric.) The narco is seen as a hero in Mexico, because they have found a way to make it big in the US, and making it big here is the ultimate goal for most second-world nations.

6/8/2003

Stripped paint (again) off closet doors. I really hate this exercise. I should just put up new doors and use these old ones for a canvas.

On wishful thinking (I heard this on the radio): "If you're hunting deer, and look intently into the woods, you swear you see deer."

6/8/2004

People have mixed opinions about Reagan. Some say "He's the only Republican I ever really trusted", and then they say they don't like Bush's policies, when, in fact, he is essentially a Reaganite.

6/8/2005

Took long walk in gorgeous summer morning. It clears my head. Observation/idea: Film long shadows of people walking, then invert the orientation of the image. You could also include the foreground object and treat it in some way—like what Hitchcock did in is documentary on the Holocaust).

6/8/2010

It's showtime today in the corruption trial of Blago.

People must have had the same skepticism when more books were published and libraries became larger. Ironically, as the printed book fades into obsolescence, the

amount of information and meta-information makes those libraries exponentially larger. Rather than bemoaning the effects, we should study how to control it and harness the essence of information in human memory. The dark side of too much information is that it doesn't 'reside' anywhere that we can easily access it. It's exciting that we can see the universe of knowledge through the telescope of technology, but we're still gazing from afar.

6/8/2011

Hot again, 95 degrees

Extremely bored. Will I ever change the story of my life? What type of action would make a clean break away from dull routines? (Consult Montaigne...)

6/8/2014, Sunday

In studio: working on *California Hallway* for Music For Places III.

6/8/2015

Late Sunset:

6/8/2018, Friday

We are perhaps moving more towards the transformational or experiential in art, in which physical objects are mementos. The popularity of the minimalist movement (in contemporary society, not in art) is a testament to popular sentiments about art objects. This philosophy about material objects is something worth considering as an artist. There are many ways to be creative that don't take up space. I have ideas for paintings, but I always put off ordering the canvases until I have

parsed-out what I already have, and have made a decision to make them.

This is one of the attributes of music that is so elegant—that there is a score (plans) and perhaps a recording (remix source) to work from. It only has a spatial dimension in the place that it is played, or if the physical recordings and/or data take up too much space.

***

Ideally, I have three things I work on: a piece of music, a piece of art in any medium, and a piece of writing. It's a heuristic that seems to work well for me. I only work on one thing when I want to finish something on a deadline. Sometimes there's a little wiggle room that I allow for serendipity.

6/8/2021

The reason I wanted to set music to Ruscha's "Bronson Tropics" (and subsequent painting) is perhaps with the same wonder and fascination of Ruscha himself. This style of architecture (the Dingbat, each with a unique signature) is decidedly Southern California: modern, streamlined, care-free, "breezy", and leisurely. ("Beautiful blue skies and golden sunshine—all along the way...") At the beginning of the piece is one of David Lynch's daily weather reports, as a kind of DJ leader. It's interesting that when I was doing the airy synth parts, the weather was exactly like the weather in L.A. per Lynch's weather report.

***

Technological advancement has also become a routine lately. We have to push ourselves to innovate, we *must* collaborate, we have to think of faster ways of getting to Mars and other planets. There is a constant push to make things go faster without stopping to think that these technologies have side effects, which also becomes a part of the routine. Unfortunately, all technological advances are now socially informed and lubricated. In various places that I've looked recently and in things that I've heard on technological innovation it's all about the social aspects behind the success of that particular innovation even if it wasn't really needed. I still don't think social media is really needed and makes more problems than it solves. We're always talking about the ramifications of social media but we're stuck in a negative feedback loop with something we think is a benefit to society.

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A few days ago, I was watching a video on YouTube about the delays in commerce, which are starting to appear because of course COVID, but there are a lot of other factors that have to do with systems—stocks, delays and so on, and it made me think about how I approach creativity. I approach creativity in two ways: one of them is to have a stockpile of ideas that can be drawn from in case there's some kind of a "system disruption" (creative blocks), and the other is to work JIT (Just In Time), and create art in the moment, and then

if I need to go into the inventory I can dip into it. I think it's a mixture of both of those things. In my case, I have been cataloging and saving ideas for decades. Subconsciously, perhaps I'm drawing from it.

6/8/2022

Cold and rainy, March in June continues. Uvalde testimony quite galvanizing.

***

After reading a bit of Iain McGilchrist, I think one of its roles would be to reactivate the right brain, with the result perhaps being more creative thinking. For those already more right-brained, it might be to engage with art with clearer intentions, rather than making things for more social media engagement. So the role of art might be more explore creativity for the joy of it.

The flip side might be to be more activist and political, if it can be effective. Even if it turns out that it isn't perhaps it will create a new aesthetic as happened with Constructivism and Futurism.

I don't recall how I first heard about *The Master and His Emissary*, but I started to watch the author interviews. Usually I'll hear something and connect it with how I've approached music.

When you perform music in a group situation or even if you're overdubbing, you're listening to the other parts and you're reacting to them. According to his theory of

brain hemispheres, the left brain tends to focus on on the "prey"— it's focusing on one detail but at the same time it has to use the right brain in order to get the gestalt. It has to be aware of everything that's going on around it while it's focusing on the one task. That's exactly the way it should work in music but it takes skill and talent to be able to do that. Practice is necessary to get to the point where you can simultaneously carry those two things out. In a group situation when people are all doing that you would say that it's functioning optimally. So if you use that as a metaphor for society in general, take climate change for instance—that's a left-brain thing because we have to focus on specific details as well as the system-level details over 50-100 years. So it's an overview of what the two parts are doing without focusing on either.

There are things he says that I don't agree with or are unclear where they relate to music, specifically rhythm. Is the ability to play rhythms left or right brain? It should be right-brain because it has to do with flow. But the practicing to get to the level of flow must be all left-brain and linear. If you can't feel a polyrhythm intuitively, then the left-brain has to be the domain. But even then, does an intellectual understanding of rhythm create flow? I think not. Music as a universal might be a right-brain phenomenon in its best manifestation.

Rhythm is usually the thing that gets missed when people first study music because they are concerned about how it can be right-brained, i.e. to make it flow to the extent that it is out of the linearity of the left brain into

more "spiritual" dimensions of the right hemisphere(s). They may envision themselves playing music with total flow without realizing that skill is the domain of the left hemisphere initially. People focus tend to focus on the melody and the harmony—whether the singer is singing in tune and has a good shape and tone. That's a left hemisphere function and conflicts with right hemisphere flow. But that is a facet of the culture of the West. Right hemisphere flows in other cultures don't involve precision and analysis, so the music doesn't have to be perfect.

Ultimately, playing music is not about self-surveillance—it's a surrendering to the opposite, which is the right brain—at least according to McGilchrist. Musicians will find themselves somewhere between the hemispheres, especially if you're writing and playing.

June 9ths

6/9/1944, Friday

(Diary of Anne Frank)

"...Despite the miserable weather, the planes are flying diligently back and forth. We heard over the BBC that Churchill wanted to land along with the troops on D Day, but Eisenhower and the other generals managed to talk him out of it. Just imagine, so much courage for such an old man he must be at least seventy!"

6/9/1999

Terrorist drives vehicle into the Thompson Center.

6/9/2000, Friday

Feel extremely groggy. (You can usually tell when you wake up what you're going to feel like the rest of the day).

6/9/2003

Weather too cool for June, 62 degrees.

6/9/2004

They are already talking about putting Reagan on the $10 bill. I think it's too premature. It's sort of like retro: you have to wait 20 or 30 years for people to reintro-

duce it into the cultural oeuvre. I say put Kennedy on it.

On clutter: Just throw the stuff away. If you need the item again, trust that it will come to you in some way.

6/9/2007, Saturday

The only things that are truly new are things that are extremely old, as antiquity has so much mystery in it to the point of being continually intriguing.

6/9/2010

Interesting: The 'inadvertent' or emergent sense of conspiracy of government and large corporations. The government is essentially suspect in its involvement with BP. If the 2 must operate together, then they must form a cogent alibi that everyone will follow.

6/9/2014

Studio: "Fisatic", a "placey" kind of piece—partly cloudy, then mostly sunny. The changing light in a place can affect the sound in an abstract way, similar to Debussy's "Nuages".

6/9/2019

Bike Accident:

6/9/2021

If we think about music only by the way that it sounds, then we can approach it more intuitively rather than intellectually. Typically we look at inversions as being mostly functional, but they can stand on their own and I have used them in my work. In a recent piece I ended on a first inversion triad. As a bass player, sometimes I like to use the fifth in the bass because it has a sound that I like and creates a certain kind of tension.

6/9/2022

First 1/6 hearing. Some thought it was "meh". "It wasn't enough of a show".

June 10ths

6/10/1907 (Paris)

(Kessler Diary)

Chat with Maurice Denis about possible revolution in France—that it wasn't a revolution per se but rather a "change in ownership". Also talked about the Russian Revolution and barbarism of classes attempting to seize power and how French kings made French culture. Rouart: "as soon as a class begins to get a little culture, one smashes them. The opposite in England."

6/10/1966, Friday

Single release "Paperback Writer".

6/10/1968

(Beatles Studio Diary)

Beatles in Studio Three recording "Revolution 9". Ringo and George in the US. Paul taped "Blackbird".

6/10/1995

(Eno Diary)

"This evening 30 years ago was the great poetry festival at the Albert Hall, with Ferlinghetti, Ginsberg and (most memorably for me) Ernst Jandl, barrel-chested Austrian phonetic poet. I went with Sarah, the first time we ever went anywhere together."

6/10/1997

Attended Tribune's 150th celebration at Tribune Tower with luminous light sculpture by John Mooney. Chicago Jazz Ensemble led by Bill Russo.

6/10/2000, Saturday

Saturday morning ritual—library. Stopped at Barbara's Bookstore for book signing performance by David Sedaris—packed! Only marginally funny. Why is it that somehow the humor doesn't work live?

6/10/2001, Sunday

In studio: Lots of great ideas in D-G-D-G tuning (capo 3rd fret).

George sent me an email regarding the museum of bad art. But once you start judging things, everything starts to look bad.

Mexican neighbors invited polka band to play in the backyard. I love world music, but not when I'm trying to listen to *This American Life* on NPR.

Video: *Cabaret Balkan*. Excellent sardonic humor.

6/10/2002

Stormy all day. Rented some DVDs (*Mystery Train*, *Ma Vie En Rose)* and the lights went out right when the Japanese girl said, "Hello, Goodnight." Went to coffee shop and studied (boring) Lightwave manual.

6/10/2003

Martha Stewart indicted for obstruction of justice. No one is above reproach. She's not Betty Crocker you know...

Dinner with S. At Indian restaurants. Love the food but your clothes reek of deep-fried pakoras for days.

6/10/2005, Friday

Article in Tribune about Japan's criticism of China's history texts. Sometimes books and films about history say more about history than history itself. Recording history is like remembering a dream: fragments stitched together into a narrative.

Interesting: Physical media for music have constraints build right in; for example, vinyl (45-60 minutes), the CD (60-75), the 45 (8 minutes both sides). On Floyd's

Dark Side they were thinking "we need five more minutes". When the medium is a sound file there are virtually no duration constraints. How does it affect the content and ideas about content?

Went over to Millennium Park and everyone is photographing it, and I thought, "there must be millions of prints of this place!" Idea: Put up a website and ask people to send in prints and collage them on a huge wall.

Titles: "Inner Pieces", "The Dark Cloud of Democracy", "Emotional Pause".

Interview with Rob Halford on Fresh Air. I liked what he said about how what you wear determines identity and motivation to succeed, in his case, leather. "I got dressed and started screaming." Rock stars, especially older ones, are so locked into identity, such that it prevents personal growth. (Personal growth is an enemy to the fixed identity. A fixed view of the world ensures the ego will totally subjugate individuation). Another thing, metal lyrics are so inane! (although they work with the music, i.e.] they contextualize the overall impact of the work— sometimes lyrics are just another sound, something to fill the "lyric" space. If they weren't there, one would wonder where they were). He said his favorite book was the Thesaurus, then I suspected that the lyrics were just a background aspect.

Title: "Shrink Freud"

6/10/2010

Field Audio: Lurie Garden and Millennium Park[7], Gehry Bridge[8], Centennial Park (Grant Park Garden)[9], Pritzker Pavilion for Bassekou Ngoni Ba concert.[10]

Nice prelude to Chicago Blues Festival with some Malian Blues, the yeyo of American Blues. Bassekou is an amazing soloist on the ngoni set against intricate polyrhythmic grooves.

Idea for artwork: paint surfaces with blackboard paint and do strategic erasure.

Title: "Strategic Erasure"

7. Lurie Garden and Millennium Park: https://bit.ly/luriegarden2010
8. Gehry Bridge: bit.ly/gehrybridge
9. Centennial Park: bit.ly/centennialpark1
10. Pritzker Pavilion: bit.ly/Pavilion2010

"The great thing about the funk is that you can give it up without losing it completely. So if someone says they want you to give up the funk, it's not that you want to take it from them, they just want you to share."
—Bootsy Collins

***

Imagine what a 21st century Dada movement would look and sound like. It would certainly be much more radical than Lady Gaga. Lady Gaga is downright Victorian compared to what the first generations post-Singularity would create.

6/10/2017, Saturday

To use an analogy from music, anyone that can work well with software (including programming) can construct some kind of audio art, which can be considered music per se. The history of pop music keeps expanding and can absorb new forms. Potentially, art might follow this same path. I have no objection to people that want to compose with no training. History has demonstrated that training is not tantamount to being musical. The ability to recognize a "condition of art" (a "good eye") or "condition of music" (a "good ear"), is an important aspect of being an artist. The other more important part is to simply do the work.

***

The brain prefers patterns, and will attempt to find them when they aren't there. 2, 3, and 4 are common

meters because of their regularity. (This may have to do with the homunculus or brain mapping). As has been already stated, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and so on, all contain groupings of 2 or 3 in order to simplify the patterns.

To me 5/4–8 seems natural for some reason, but all the others less so. The more complicated ones are perhaps too mechanical.

6/10/2021

This morning there was a beautiful annular eclipse that happened at sunrise. It's so interesting that those two things happen together. If you look at the earth map that as the sun rises across the globe, the moon is passing in front of the sun so there's two events happening at the horizon. I'm sorry I missed it. It's such a numinous event. Even watching these online and looking at the photographs is so moving to me. Some people are indifferent but I don't know how you could ignore something that is so fascinating.

***

Went out for a walk and sat at Austin Gardens to do a bit of reading. There was this group of young kids sitting in a circle and they were talking and laughing and having a good time for about a half-hour. I was thinking that if all that was happening on social media it would take 10 years for all those conversations to transpire and I didn't see any of them using phones. It could be that the next generation is seeing this new opportunity to simply carry on like people used to car-

ry on, instead of typing with their thumbs or simply typing all the time and posting on social media.

***

Was thinking about the trip to the Palos sloughs last weekend. I had thought they were formed by the glaciers long ago and that I'd find fossils, but no, they were man-made as a kind of a drainage system. Driving around the adjacent suburbs I thought, how boring. At least it gets you out of the house. At least it generated a song idea.

***

The real essence of creativity for me is to make something and then look at it and say. "That's me—that's stuff that I make—that's how I approach art or music", and it also works in the sense that maybe if I create something that doesn't look like me just for the sake of collaborating with someone else, I could say, "Well I'm in there somewhere, perhaps it's buried, but I contributed to it." But in terms of working alone, I suppose you could swap that out and create something that's not "you" and you could say, "That's not me at all but I kind of like it", and then that feeds back into your your whole creative self, and you can start to own all these things. It's not something you typically do—it was just an experiment—and it becomes part of the system that you can draw from in the future.

6/10/2022

Alignment of planets while growing seriousness of investigation of UFOs (UAFs). This makes sense given the infection of the collective unconscious these days.

June 11ths

6/11/1995

(Eno Diary)

"Reading *Prisoner's Dilemma.* Fascinating, that immediate postwar period. The power of certain individuals to change history: Francis Matthews, Bertrand Russell. The open letter—a now underused device."

6/11/1997

Idea: Songs about books, songs about films.

(My *Music For Places IV: Rings of Saturn* album was released in 2018 and 2019, based on W.G. Sebald's book *The Rings of Saturn*. It took over 20 years for this idea to come to fruition.)[11]

6/11/1998

Dream: Watching a film in full 360 degrees. It was directed by Coppola and he acted in it as well.

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On train to work, person behind me tapped me on the shoulder and told me I had a bug on my collar, all the while I was reading an article about insects.

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11. *Music For Places IV: Rings of Saturn* https://music.apple.com/us/album/music-for-places-vol-4-rings-of-saturn/1483042031

I hear songs in my head, and they sound like good ideas—like today. I hear a song idea that I can see Jane Siberry doing, but she writes her own material. So what do I do with it?

Bought new Mitch Froom CD. I really love that trashy sound, especially on the "faux" jazz pieces.

6/11/2004, Friday

Ray Charles died at 73. He said more about the nature of American culture than Reagan did.

Reagan funeral proceedings. Margaret Thatcher's eulogy was so interesting, in a stuffy kind of way. Arnold Schwarzenegger: "I vill be there someday..."

As Reagan said, "quiet faith" is what I believe in.

6/11/2001

McVeigh executed. More reason to do away with the death penalty, especially in high profile cases like McVeigh's: it allows them to accomplish everything they set out to do, and the media just eats it up. Like in the movie 15 Minutes, where the videotape of a murder being committed is leaked to the press, and the press decides to air it.

America is now seen as a place where you can get away with anything, and become famous in the process.

On the few days preceding and the subsequent days of the execution, one could go to any news source and see McVeigh's picture, his face looking totally at peace. He went to his death thinking that he accomplished his goals, and in a way we let him do it. A much greater sentence would be to live his life in pain, not in the bliss of a slow injection of deadly morphine. His sentence should include a daily reminder of the suffering of the 168 people he killed, a never-ending looping videotape showing the blood and pain on everyone's face, just as everyone else has seen the past 6 years.

For those that have no interest in life in the first place, either for their own or for the lives of others, death is bliss and much too easy.

For those of us that live with the agony of chronic pain from our various ailments, death by lethal injection seems too damn easy.

***

Older jazz musician playing in the subway. He had several different thumb pianos with a pick up attached going through a cheesy amp. Excellent sound! Must try it! The sound was a cross between distorted guitar and Rhodes piano.

6/11/2011

Cold and drizzly (strange for June)

Late spring cleaning. Purged old junk, including a hideous old chest of drawers that I had in my childhood bedroom circa 1972.

6/11/2020

Ways to be more collaborative:

A shared vision and a commitment to uphold it; Mutual respect/love; Ability to laugh frequently (not taking it too seriously); Diversion to diffuse conflict (changing the subject temporarily); Clear communication (not vague signals or mind games); More shared interests than less (ratio no less than 1:1); Parity of skill in at least one area; Empathy for individual roles (knowing the feeling of being in someone else's shoes); Lower tolerance for self-promotion; Acceptance of dominant roles (not everyone can do everything); Openness to learning (not intransigence or stubbornness); Eccentric ideas accepted and seriously reasoned; Individual explorations tangential to collaboration appreciated (bringing something to the table in the spirit of contribution); Willingness to sacrifice individuality for the serving of higher goals; Continuous defining/redefining "higher" goals (knowing why); Time to argue for positions, instead of being quickly dismissed (everything left on the table); Open to "third persons" (avoiding jealousy); Knowing when to leave with grace; Acceptance that not all contributions require the same effort (some get off easy); The ability to scrap initial plans for new group vision.

June 12ths

6/12/1927, Sunday

(Weston Daybooks)

So many gray days which breaks the shells period, but not through lack of desire.

6/12/1998, Friday

Finally a beautiful morning!

Went to medical library and was thinking about what a vast repository of accumulated knowledge and if for some reason we lost all the information we would devolve as human beings and would have to relearn everything. Also, I'm working on all this medical stuff, and was wondering that when someone knows a lot about one part of the body, say genitals, are they extra conscious about how things are working when they pee or have sex?

Film: *The Truman Show*. Somewhat good (I don't know how original) film about one's life being a popular TV show, with everyone in your life an actor, and with God as director. I found it somewhat odd that God's "Mission Control Center" was only introduced midway through the film, when it's an element that should have been made known earlier.)

6/12/1999, Saturday

At one point I thought rap and hip hop were interesting but it has sort of stagnated and isolated itself. Pure styles always become relics.

Went out to see film (critically acclaimed John Sayles film *Limbo*. All critics were raving about its controversial ending, which I thought was no great shakes. Ambiguous endings are sometimes the only interesting option when happy/sad endings seem cliche. I thought that it might be an intentional ploy by Sayles to suggest a serial approach, like Kieslowski. My idea would be to have the daughter appear in the next chapter 10 years later as a successful journalist that had an interesting story to tell about being stranded on a deserted island (which no one would believe). The mother remarries composer husband and they die ironically on a boat that the two brothers own and operate, bought from the two lesbians. The fisherman that originally owned the boat is a suspect in the boat incident. And the story ends ambiguously with the fisherman apparently in cahoots with the elder Gautier brother.

6/12/2000

To studio to work on *Melange II*. Idea for last song: take snips from each song and put into Acid program as a "hidden" track.

6/12/2010, Saturday

Field recordings: Union Station[12], Chicago Loop Walk[13], Post Office[14]

Interesting: The spill oil is going to be sold to fund efforts to protect and restore wildlife habitat along the Gulf Coast. It's blood oil.

I still hate 'Like'. Merely clicking 'Like' doesn't necessarily mean you truly like something. It is similar to clapping, carrying a 'Peace' placard or honking a car horn, but may have nothing to do with personal tastes or values.

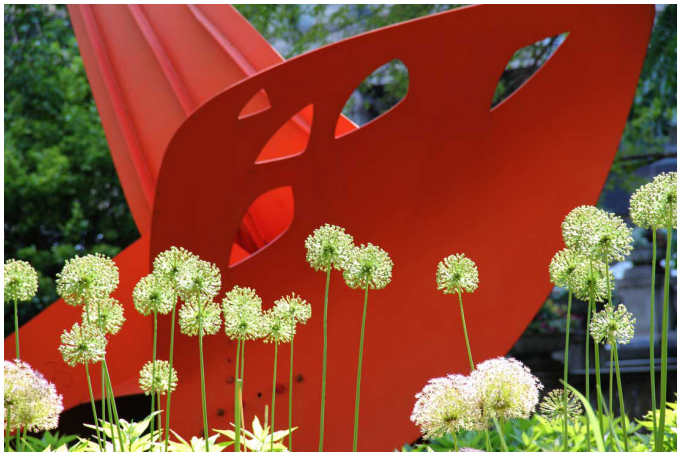
6/12/2011, Saturday

Sunny and unseasonably chilly.

Old Town Art Fair, Blues Fest and Youth Symphony Orchestra concert with cousin on his final days in Chicago. Art fairs are starting to get a bit like fireworks for me—they are merely perennial events to mark the passing of the seasons. Undoubtedly there is some amazing work here, but more and more I am noticing artists adopting signature styles that are repeated over and over, like branding. Some work I recall seeing 20 years ago, amazing but no one has an interest in owning it.

12. Union Station: bit.ly/unionstation2010
13. Chicago Loop Walk: bit.ly/loopwalk2010
14. Post Office: bit.ly/postoffice2010

Calder Flowers (North Garden at Art Institute):



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6/12/2021, Saturday

The morning is the time that we think about body clocks and tempos because we physically feel them. There's always a perfect tempo marking that I like which I don't think is arbitrary. I don't think we fully understand our perception time but music is a way that we can get into that space.

***

Listened to an interview with Niall Ferguson about his new book *Doom*, which goes back to my ideas on the disaster movie trope—this idea of the science writer who has to create a scenario of a dystopian future. In order to make it compelling it has to hit all the trigger points at the right moments.

***

Perhaps it's already been done, but what would be interesting is a history class that was based on songs written through the ages, which would correspond to actual history. The history of the recordings would be studied as well and perhaps people would write songs as class assignments and perform and record them.

Each student would pick some part of history that interests them. The first part of the assignment would be to simply write the song based on your current knowledge. Then rewrites would be done after researching the events—editing the verses accordingly and adding verses.

Art history would also be included. For example, you can take a painting from the 1830s and write the song based on its history. Or writing songs influenced by your favorite (musical of visual art) artists and displace them in time, such as Bob Dylan, Pink Floyd, Bruce Springsteen, or Sting. It would all be based on actual, not mythologized histories, and it would be interesting and fun. You could also do covers/parodies—such as *History Will Teach Us Nothing*.

***

Routines are probably a fixture of cognitive health. There has to be something that has a familiar pattern that gives you an easy access point to creative work. If there's no pattern and if everything is just noise all the

time you just don't know where to begin working. Even when you do begin, and all you encounter is noise, you still have to find a pattern which makes you feel like it's a routine and you're back on track. Otherwise, every day is too different. Perhaps some people thrive on that but there has to be some underlying pattern.

For me, music is a routine that can be varied. The way musicians typically have switched their routines is to change the genre or change the creative process in some way. But it's still a routine which can be productive to some degree.

Good routines also involve good feedback loops: If you can get some kind of feedback loop going, either with your own creative practice or in collaboration with others, that's also a great benefit as well. What is key is going to that same creative head-space all the time which becomes a dynamo, and is crucial to good routines.

6/12/2022

Annual book/CD/DVD donation drive at library. Interesting: most of the non-fiction that people are giving away are all self-help books.

***

Why does any kind of music have a "reputation"? I never thought it did. I found it interesting harmonically vis-a-vis traditional classical harmony. As I recall, jazz started its mid-life crisis in the 1990s when the jazz community was pondering what future jazz would be

like. A commonly shared idea was that it would be future-focused, i.e. inculcating whatever technology was in development. I think the idea that jazz is a "music of the future" still holds true, and that any music created in the future that is sonically audacious will be a "jazz".

Jazz was the musical equivalent of the modern art period (~1900-1960) and very often artists would play jazz while creating art—with Jackson Pollock the prime example. What's particularly interesting about that connection was that it was more or less a meme that took hold in culture. If you think about what might have been playing on the radio in Pollock's studio it wasn't Ornette Coleman! It was probably all the music that was in rotation at the time: Ellington, Be Bop, Big Band, and so on. An artist in the 1960s might have been playing that same material, plus Coltrane, Miles Davis and other contemporary jazz, as well as the fusions with rock.

As to the "intellectual" aspect, I think jazz does activate the same brain regions used in scientific fields, so you have the connections with jazz and physics for example—just as art and physics overlap on the Venn diagram.

As a musician, I don't consider the reputation of jazz when playing Emaj7#11 rather than just an E triad. It's not something I would avoid just because it might activate the cultural meme that jazz is intellectual. To me, it's just pressing keys on a keyboard. It could be that people don't like dissonant intervals or things that are generally angular. Generally speaking, people tend to

like things that are smooth and curvilinear and jazz is "geometric" in many ways, which may appeal to visual artists (including architects) at that level. But again, it's not a conscious choice and something that is simply in the flow of life. Instead of seeing intellect as having a pejorative meaning, you could say that sonic preferences might just be like all preferences in life and are neutral and fungible.

In terms of the "reputations" of genres, certainly, Prog has similar aspersions cast on it, the most obvious example being Punk circa 1978. But if you go on YouTube you can find huge audiences for guys like Allan Holdsworth, a posthumous jazz/prog God, and people probably like it because of its "intellectual" value. Whereas general audiences would pan its angularity and all-over-the-place quality. When in fact, it isn't "all over the place" when you play it. It could be that the idea of tension and release is not appreciated, which is the machinery that makes jazz work.

Jazz requires some intellectual engagement, as do many genres of art, including ancient art. Certainly, much of that art was created with a huge intellectual component but was perhaps reframed as having a larger collective exoteric value, rather than the esoteric vibe of jazz. The fact that it is esoteric might also be the je ne sais quoi and people are attracted to that as well.

***

Cliches can "reset" over the generations because old ideas seem to be new, or can be contextualized to be

unique. Doing a "retro" treatment is an example of knowing the past. In auto design, creating the new Corvette uses elements from past Corvettes.

Cliches that are no longer cliche really are more Universals and can be used with no expiration date. The challenge is to make it clear that the cliche is being used in this way.

***

When the first PCs became available, people primarily used them for playing games and learning how to program. It wasn't until Adobe Illustrator was released ~1988 that people began using it for creating vector-based designs and for typography (font design). Steve Jobs may have been one of the "vectors" in that shift as he had already been into calligraphy. Photoshop was released shortly thereafter and for anyone that had a PC, that type of software (including MS Excel) was the thing people did with them.

But even before then programmers may have been using it more aesthetically, more on the lines of typewriter art, but done on a CRT. Warhol made his first piece of art on a computer in 1985.

But to describe it, I would say that it continues to be driven by advances in hardware and microprocessors. On that score, I don't believe that digital art will supplant physical art (or digital music for that matter) unless the instruments or art materials simply are not available and art will have to be made by digital means.

Blog post idea: "On the Eclecticism of Opinion". Why are Americans so against US foreign policy that they side with foes? This is like Americans going out and protesting in the streets for it. Extremists are both far left and far right (slippage). If I were do defend the US I would say that China's rights over Taiwan territory should have been in negotiation all along. Why are they asserting their position now? If they wanted reunification why didn't they pursue it before? The US has the right to defend human and civil rights against totalitarian regimes. People want to be a dove and a hawk at the same time and they are confused, or just want to play the field of opinion and having an eclectic approach.

June 13ths

6/13/1927

(Weston Daybooks)

CK came by, had not seen her in years. She was thinking that he'd take photos of her, which he did—nudes. She is a dancer—body youthful, strong, brown from the sun and sea winds, yet he was repulsed.

6/13/1930

(Weston Daybooks)

Back from week in San Francisco where he did some shopping. Glad to return from noise and stench. One print to artist Bob Howard. Even with little money he bought a Bach album for $10 (sic). On buying records: only Bach holds up fresh and strong after repeated playing. He always comes back to Bach after tiring of modern records.

6/13/1944

(Diary of Anne Frank)

"Yesterday Churchill, Smuts, Eisenhower and Arnold visited the French villages that the British have captured and liberated. Churchill was on a torpedo boat that shelled the coast. Like many men, he doesn't seem to know what fear is — an enviable trait!...No doubt many people are glad the idle (!) British have finally rolled up their sleeves and gotten down to work."

6/13/1949 (Denver)

(Jack Kerouac Journal)[15]

Kerouac gets settled in and types 10,000 words for "On the Road". "Beautiful summer is mine".

6/13/1984 (Milan)

(Keith Haring Journal)

"The problem facing modern man now is compounded by the increasing power of technology and its misuse by those in power who wish only to control. The mentality of people who are motivated by profits at the expense of human needs is perfect for the computer. ...The worlds of art and money are constantly intermingling. To survive this mixture the magic in art has to be applied in new ways. Magic must always triumph."

6/13/1987, Saturday (Dusseldorf)

(Keith Haring Journal)

"Woke up at 8:00. Walk over to BBDO to finish the painting. I decide to fill in the color fast and drippy instead of carefully. Sometimes painting around the preceding drips and leaving a lot of white space. I never did it like this before and it looks great. Very American...."

15. Brinkley, Douglas. Jack Kerouac: Windblown World. New York: Viking, 2004. Print.

6/13/1995

(Eno Diary)

"There are many futures and only one status quo. This is why conservatives mostly agree and radicals always argue. R. R. and S. B. - two people who are, in some way or the other, trying to make the future, but disagreeing about how it should be done."

6/13/1997, Friday

Friday the 13th.

Bulls win 5th championship...The city went nuts!

6/13/2000

Cultural Center for Frank Gehry Millennium Park exhibit (currently in limbo for cost overruns— this is Chicago, remember?) The trellis idea with suspended speakers seems to be a good idea, and so will the pooping seagulls. Video clip: "I don't care if my buildings are around in 200 years— I love the process." (And of course they're in a suspended state of incompletion).

6/13/2002

They had this thing in the paper where they listed the summertime hits since 1960 and I realized I couldn't remember anything after 1990, when I turned 30. So it's true: you turn 30 and your youth fades to black.

***

Using axis formulae, you can control audience response by "swinging the pendulum" from stasis to dynamism.

6/13/2004, Sunday

(Neil Peart, Roadshow)

"The Lake of the Ozarks area was pleasantly scenic, though busy on his summer Sunday, and Michael and I gradually angled back to the Northwest, to the farms and woodlands of Southwestern Missouri. Church Sign: "If God had a wallet, your picture would be in it." That's pretty good, I must say, kind of lyrical. Could be a line from the song, Maybe by the New Main Street Singers in A Mighty Wind."

6/13/2005

Watched documentary on genius composer. Interesting: He talked about living in a world of "multiple channels" (I like this metaphor...); the "channeling of everyday life" (fusing your life in art with the times); he hears everything at once (this is the misperception of musical ingenuity and composition, although I wish

I could speed up the process of thought to paper); he never revises (an artist once told me the technique he used to determine what needed to be done to a piece of art and were squinting at it and looking at it peripherally, which allowed him to view it's objectively, and made revisions accordingly). Also, approach it as you've heard/viewed it for the first time); what stops us from being prolific? (too much/ not enough of something); where else is there to go after you've achieved success by 18? It's sad that the best part of the journey is over; He takes walks, which allows him to work things out analytically (analyze away from the studio, then go in and do it quickly).

6/13/2010, Sunday

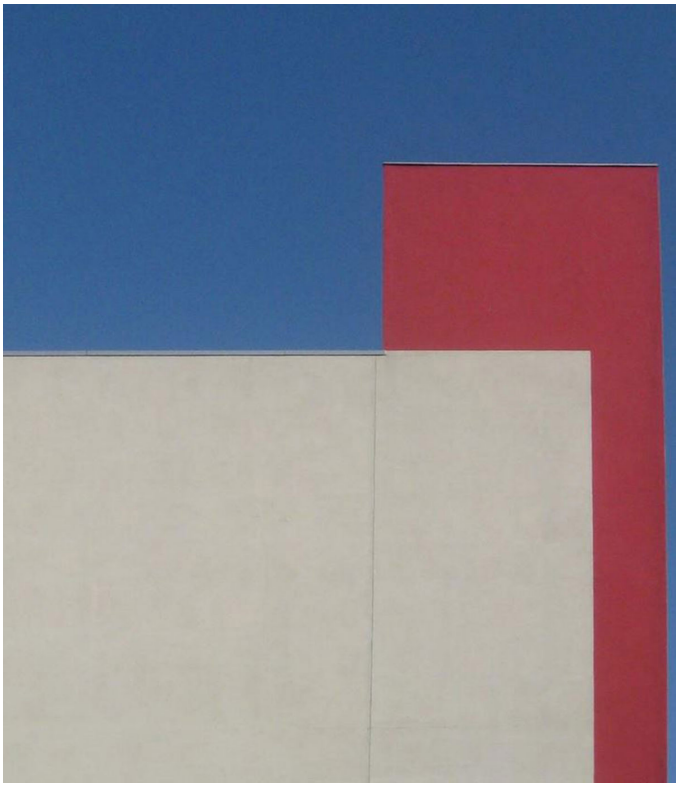
Brought in pieces to OPAL gallery for show opening next Friday (5 against 4, New Man). Interesting: You can rent the space for $50 per hour.

Out with portable Tascam recorder. Clips: Barbara's Bookstore[16], Train Passing[17]

16. Barbara's Bookstore: bit.ly/3CKkPJd
17. Train Passing: bit.ly/3igbjGE

6/13/2011

Stunningly beautiful day. Took long walk down to West Loop. I love how the saturated blue sky makes for great photos. This reminds me of an Ellsworth Kelly:



6/13/2020, Saturday

Lately I have been writing songs on manuscript paper (albeit in Finale) with just melody and chords. It has been a good exercise in the revisiting of manual creative

processes instead of knob and slider twiddling and the dissection of samples and loops.

Almost 25 years since the release of Sony's Acid program, this way of working is baked-in, and even I "cheat" by looping samples or cutting and pasting sections. But we can't avoid these tasks with software because it's a core function of software to utilize its affordances (what the perceived function of an object is). It's how we use the "cockpit" of tools and functions which are presented to use in any kind of interface, whether it be analog or digital.

6/13/2021, Sunday

Working on possible music for "Cathedral In The Desert" photograph. Solo guitar, D Phrygian.[18]

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Studio: Working on "Bronson". What I realized is that when you write music for a location in a film, or even a still from a film, you consider the history. If you compare a photograph of the building taken in 1966 and the way the location looks now, there's a stark difference. If you then look at how Ruscha stylized it there's also a stark difference. What I found interesting about the painting that he made was that it was just it was an abstraction of the place, and that's what these songs are. You don't necessarily have to think about all the things that happened there, but it's interesting to think that those things can be embedded—all the people

18. https://youtu.be/p9oI8u7QY-0

that lived in that apartment building over 60 years and what happened to these people throughout their lives. When you research images that history is there and either you're going to look at it or you're going to ignore it. For me it's the latter: I wouldn't want to delve into everything that happened in that building but that's an interesting aspect of it.

***

Mere observation of climate changes is not going to make a big difference unless you record it. This was one of the things I did early on in this diary, noting uncharacteristic weather, such as really cold weather in in the beginning of June or really warm weather in December. If everybody started doing this we could record that information and declare "this is the data that we recorded on our own these are our own grassroots observations, then put that into a database and then take the real data coming off of collection devices and then compare them. And if there's a similarity between the two then we can say that personal observations and process observations have a connection, evidence these things are really happening.

***

I like the idea of "maintenance" practice, where you practice only the things that are weak, such as chord switching. If you practice to the point of pain, then you might want to find a new voicing, or perhaps look at dynamics. Sometimes certain things can't be played with force and you find you can play them without

hitting so hard. Then you won't have to practice long at all.

***

The phrase "the medium is the message" applies in a lot of different ways: The way it applies in music is that your instrument is the medium. So whatever instrument you use is going to shape the content. When you're writing, the tool that you use to write is going to shape the content. If you do all your writing by texting that's going to be the shape of your writing. If you write in longhand on paper that's going to be the form of the writing. If you write just by talking then that's going to be the form of the writing. (Dictated)

6/13/2022

100 degrees. Stocks go into bear market.

In the late 1990s the first sites to allow DIY music releases were MP3.com and IUMA. It was extremely liberating, as was the general zeitgeist of the Internet. Also during that period was the advent of Napster, also liberating, but also one of the first disruptive technologies—seen as a reset—but would lead to the collapse of the entire infrastructure, even the good aspects.

I'm reminded of a TED talk given by Zynep Tufekci:

"...as digital technology makes things easier for movements, why haven't successful outcomes become more likely as well? In embracing digital platforms for activ-

ism and politics, are we overlooking some of the benefits of doing things the hard way?...I believe that the rule of thumb is: Easier to mobilize does not always mean easier to achieve gains...Today's protests have become a bit like climbing Mt. Everest with the help of 60 Sherpas, and the Internet is our Sherpa. What we're doing is taking the fast routes and not replacing the benefits of the slower work."

Social media has been somewhat of a mixed bag (at least in terms of collaboration) because it was built on top of an Internet that perhaps didn't want it or see a need for it. We will always be social and have media, so combining the two has become a sum less than its parts.

June 14ths

6/14/1995

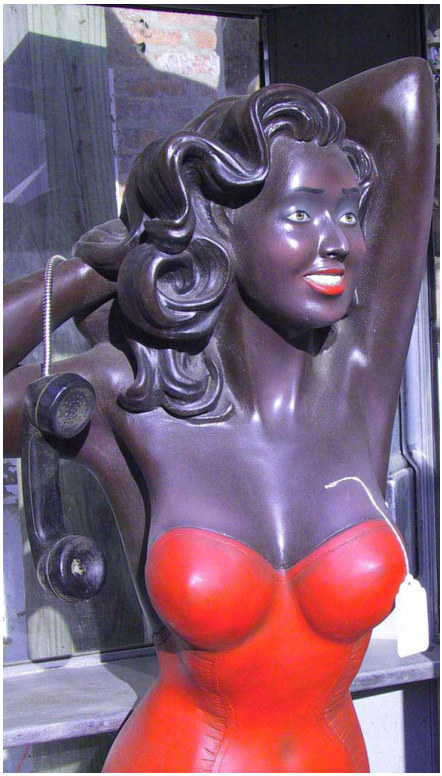
(Eno Diary)

Eno meets with Jah Wobble: "For once I'll see what it's like to be the 'I'm just the channel' type of artist."

6/14/1999

Painted cows now on display [on Michigan Avenue]. Kitsch but fun.

6/14/2003



6/14/2004

Americans being taken hostage in Saudi Arabia. American patriotism makes them look victimized, when in fact they accepted the risks when they went there. People that go into the jungle get eaten by wild animals.

It's not ideology that we should fear, but rather mutations of ideology and the formation of sects and cults. (Things have a way of changing).

In laugh tracks, what are the people really laughing at?

6/14/2005

While on a walk, there were two locomotives idling, their pneumatic system spitting out an insanely fast jungle rhythm in 64th notes, with little bursts of odd moments. (incorporate into music).

6/14/2009, Sunday

Went to production of The Who's *Tommy* at Circle Theater, then feeling nostalgic, watched The Who's performance of it on YouTube. (I wonder if Townshend ever envisioned that it would be choreographed.) In any event, this is an excellent production, and works well in a small black-box theater. It also highlights an important era in pop music, when the resident songwriters were working on the heels of an eclectic mix of music history—a melange of jazz, classical, musicals, etc. pushing it through the grinder of the 60s and 70s. What you have at the other end are well-crafted songs that can be easily re-orchestrated for the stage, mostly because they have melodies and people can sing and dance to them. (A good song is measured by its ability to span at least one generation, and these songs are almost through the second: the entire cast is probably younger than 30.)

6/14/2021

I was recently listening to some songs from the 1990s, one in particular, "Born of Frustration" by the band James (1992). I really like that mix and I keep coming back to it. Towards the end there's a point where everything is (perceptively) getting louder, but the instruments aren't getting louder—it's a doubling effect. There's a confluence of elements that come together in the mix which makes it very emotional.

June 15ths

6/15/1998

Was pondering the Bulls phenomenon. Watched the game last night and I can see why people idolize this sport and the Bulls in particular. I think it's the same motivation people have to do things such as climb Mount Everest. Of course, it's the challenge, but I think people are just bored with their own lives. (A basketball game without all the regalia is just not very interesting for a spectator. Likewise, the CD of punk or techno or industrial is not interesting without the mosh-pit experience).

Computers are very much a work in progress. They're really not a refined technology for human consumption. [Computers continually crashed. In 2020 this never happens. The problems we have now will be solved in 2040 if the arc of improvements are similar].

6/15/1999

Computer finally came (3 days late), but so tired didn't bother hooking it up. Guy downstairs kept me up last night. Wrote letter to Bill Binkleman sending him a copy of Miles From Mars. I'm looking forward to what the new computer will eventually make possible but not looking forward to configuring it for those possibilities. (Computer was a Dell Pentium 90 running Windows 98).

6/15/2000

Impressions: scaffolding (its beauty is its function). How can I use this as a metaphor?

6/15/2002, Saturday

Lunch with S. Took pics at Austin Gardens. (Hers of me):

To Arlington Heights for Groucho Marx monologue show. The star said he's done the show almost 2000 times. (2000 shows@2x week = 1000 weeks = 20 years. How did he do that?) He works for Anderson Consulting.

6/15/2003

Millennium Park band shell under construction:

6/15/2005

They did this new study where they've discovered that single brain cells can recognize objects, faces, etc. Once memory is encoded (stored) it doesn't take much to reactivate it. (It becomes "exformation"). The brain naturally uses this to optimize memory (headroom) for situations that would require more brain power. The brain is discarding information, but not necessarily to make us smarter, just more agile.

***

Congo the chimp did these paintings, and apparently outsell Warhol and Renoir. The only surprising thing here is monetization of something seemingly normal or ironic, not interesting. What this shows is that an

un-analytical expressive art appeals to our sense of what art is supposed to be).

6/15/2009

Uprising in Iran following defeat of Mousavi in national elections, claiming it's a cooked vote tally. This is happening exactly 30 years since the overthrow of the Shah in 1979. Interesting: social unrest almost in sync with a generational shift: parent and child both have a common cultural history based on national disunity. David Brooks: "1979 marked the beginning of the modern terrorist movement." If he's right, 2009 will mark the beginning of the its horrible end. But perhaps the world is more resilient than we think.

6/15/2018, Friday

Studio for "Rings": "The Vault of the Sky" for Benacre Broad section.

6/15/2019

Aerials:

6/15/2019

Calculations:

All things have different kinds of problems. If you are working in an area where you're using two domains or more, such as music and technology, you're having to deal with different kinds of problems, instead of just musical or just computer-based problems. One of the

problems I have with using too much programming in music is that I tend to get bogged down in things that aren't of a musical nature. We have to decide where we want to focus our problem solving so that it's not interfering with creativity. They can't be co-mingled as they're in conflict more than they are in having similarities. That's the problem I have with using too much AI in music: we're too focused on the data and programming.

6/15/2022

The Deepfake Gallery Dream: I was in what I believed to be San Francisco, and was at an art gallery. There was an artist there that was filming individual subjects and I was one of the participants. In another fragment there was an interactive installation which involved the superimposition of the filmed faces over what appeared to be boxers in a boxing ring, and the viewer would choose the faces to superimpose—like a Tony Oursler work. Another fragment where my elderly aunt said that she lived in SF in the 60s and I said I never knew that.

***

The more successful Mars missions eventually become, the idea that the earth is uninhabitable becomes a more (seemingly) viable idea. The fact that we have to have colonies even on the Earth, and perhaps if there's been some kind of nuclear exchange and the climate becomes unadaptable, the people with the wherewithal will be creating subterranean colonies. They will be

able to survive on the Earth with a connection to Mars as if it's a plane ride away. It's a very dystopian idea but the world is becoming very dystopian, perhaps the cumulative result of all our Sci-Fi imaginations.

In terms of architecture, it's actually a great idea for tornado alley, and could be lit by skylights and daylighting. I'd live in one.

Blog Entry: *Bunker Mentality* [19]

June 16ths

6/16/1895, Springfield Centre, N.Y. (Letters of William James) [20]

To Mrs. Henry Whitman: "Just reviving from the addled and corrupted condition in which the Cambridge year has left me; just at the portals of that Adirondack wilderness for the breath of which I have sighed for years, unable to escape the cares of domesticity and get there; just about to get a little health into me, a little simplification and solidification and purification and sanification—things which will never come again if this one chance be lost; just filled to satiety with all the simpering conventions and vacuous excitements of so-called civilization; hungering for their opposite, the smell of the spruce, the feel of the moss, the sound of the cataract, the bath in its waters, the divine

19. https://leebarrymusic.blogspot.com/2022/08/bunker-mentality.html
20. https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/38091/pg38091-images.html

outlook from the cliff or hill-top over the unbroken forest…"

6/16/1998

For some reason, people often stop me to ask directions. If I missed my calling as a tour guide? He also confused me with other people there. A common face and a common name I suppose.

It always looks like it's going to rain, but never does.

6/16/1999

Blew the whole evening hooking up the computer, cooking dinner and doing laundry. No creative work. (Blame it on the computer).

6/16/2003

"What makes it art is that the artist went further than others had gone before."

6/16/2004

Interesting article on the stigma of the Midwest. Once people envision a place or perceive a place, it's difficult to change their minds. They would say things like, "It's a good place to be from, but not a good place to be," this is the problem with Texas…its perception coming from the TV show Dallas. (We go to places in our minds, and somehow were convinced we've been there).

Reagan forgotten again because he's not in the media. Even if you have the same stories in the news every day, even the important ones, people would get compassion fatigue. You can only have so many orange alerts. The mind is always throwing away common information (exformation).

6/16/2005

Evangelical Christians proselytizing all over the world now. The latest mission is in Morocco, where they are staging Christian rock festivals as "important foreign policy" for the Bush Administration. In a way, this is like the heady 1960s for evangelicals, where they (perhaps naively) use music as a way to rally public opinion and it winds up just being plain music, i.e not promoting social change as intended. The Moroccan kid asked, "What are evangelicals?" I doubt they understood the lyrics either.

***

I really hate the endless Sinatra tunes they play in coffee shops. I wish they would put them in a time capsule and bury them.

6/16/2010

Dream: At Brian Eno's studio with a group of people getting a tour of the area and adjacent garden. He gave everyone two plants that we placed wherever we wanted.

***

BP execs pilloried by Congress, Obama by public opinion. I am wondering if all this focus on perception of what the president should be doing is going to create a new baseline for what people perceive of one another. Many pundits are saying 'He owns it', but essentially it may be an exercise in public ridicule like telling someone to strip naked and hold a piece of chicken between their legs.

6/16/2011

Went to concert at Millennium Park: Alim Qasimov Ensemble. Thoughts: Music arises from devotional stories, not musicianship; call and response; bent seconds and other unique ornaments; notes that pull down; Non-western—-music floats over drone but not tonic; loud and reedy chest voice—plaintive.

6/16/2013, Sunday

Studio: potential track for the Nth band in "Reset", "Strategic Erasure". (Use the SciFi deck from the Composition Strategies).

6/16/2022

Third day of scorching heat. I keep thinking back of when I wrote *Hot New Earth* and seemed simply a cool topic to write a song about, thinking perhaps we'd do something about it eventually.

Third episode of 1/6 hearing. The more I've listened to more McGilchrist interviews the more I realize most of the planet is delusional and schizophrenic. We've had a right hemisphere stroke in the West hemisphere (literal and figurative).

Also listened to a few Kenny Werner interviews. He's a good example of a healthy right hemisphere person.

***

Looking back, world music gave us a sense of interconnectedness through the music, or at least that's what I felt it did. Pursuant to Iain McGilchrist, this interconnectedness is a facet of the right hemisphere. Music is way to access the right hemisphere in contrast to the left hemisphere, which is also important, to make the music more solid.

June 17ths

6/17/1987

(Keith Haring Journal)

"Wake up really early (5:30) and taxi to airport. Fly to Brussels....Really nice dinner and great house with great collection of art. [Had] a nice talk with her son who just returned from school in London. Talking about media's influence on our society and culture, the differences between America and Europe, the future, etc. Nice to have an interesting conversation that is challenging for a change."

6/17/1995

To Woodbridge on remarkably undelayed 9.30 train to visit croaking Mum....Then to Roger's - he's getting a job in music therapy again. "

6/17/1998

While listening to middle-eastern music I noticed that even the keyboard players ornament their playing as the singers do. There must be some concept of filigree that is unique to their culture.

***

New fashion for teens is to have your boxer shorts showing. Now I guess it really does matter if you have clean underwear. (Next fashion wave for teens: fashion statement gun holsters.)

6/17/1999

Beautifully cool, 65 degrees.

Lunch at taco place again, park bench by Water Tower. *Cows on Parade* exhibit interesting (sometimes) one with the horizontal stripes my favorite. Back to office for boring meeting. Later L. sent e-mail: "What you need is someone exciting in your life". My reply: "More interesting things in my life would be more exciting."

Mars calendar arrived. They're interested in cross-marketing with *Miles* album.

6/17/2000, Saturday

Email From B. Chun about licensing "Millennium Scare" and "Hot New Earth" for MP3 compilation CD to be marketed in Korea. Deadline 6/20.

6/17/2005, Friday

Student at University of Illinois is staging sunset concerts where people actually pay to get in. This is such an obvious good idea—I wish I'd thought of it. Idea: music for sunsets.

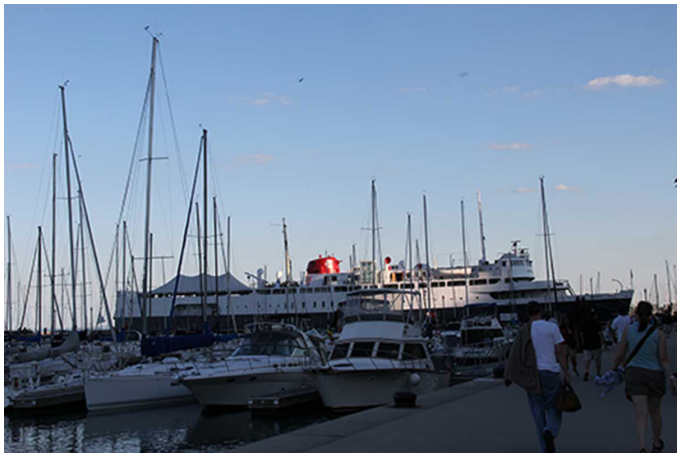
***

One thing I have been thinking about a lot lately is the sense of spirituality music, either for the writer or listener—this is ultimately what makes music and art great—the perception that something is coming from the heart with a deep numinous quality, either happy or sad. Work that is forced or contrived generally lacks spirituality.

6/17/2010

Weather gorgeous!

Sound walks: Michigan Avenue AI to River, Riverwalk, Harbor Walk. (The Turning Basin is the point where the Chicago River meets the Locks to Lake Michigan. I sat at a bench overlooking the small harbor towards the harbor house, then walked south on the promenade, with DuSable Harbor on my left).



Harbor Walk: Continued walk past DuSable harbor towards the Abegweit. There was a blues band playing on deck which you can hear in the background. A passerby says 'Party Boat!'. The strong breezes make for very clanky boat masts. As I walked south along the curved shore along came several hundred joggers running past me. A guy on a rickshaw shouts 'This ride is better than an American Eagle' (Whatever that means). Continued path past yacht club and into Monroe Harbor area, traffic noise from LSD on right, end at Balbo Drive.[21]

6/17/2017, Saturday

I've always loved the Duduk, an Armenian reed instrument, and the Kabek Kemane, a Turkish 3-string viol played vertically like a cello. Since they are technically winds and strings, any sense of spirituality or soul essentially arises from the culture and its effect on the

21. Harbor Walk: https://archive.org/details/HarborWalk

music a musician ultimately makes. Alternate tuning systems and note ornaments also have an effect on its spiritual vibe.

6/17/2022

Musical creativity probably doesn't rely on what a standard IQ test measures. Composers are generally intelligent and have a wider range of interests and aptitudes but may not contribute to a higher IQ. I would contend that musical skills might make for a higher IQ as a result of a wide range of interests, and are mutually reinforcing.

Book: *The Quiet Before*. Really interesting: How freedom cults can flip to authoritarianism.

June 18ths

6/18/1898, Saturday (Berlin)

(Kessler Diary)

Werthern said his great-grandmother (around 1820) led her husband when he was eight to a chapel and made him swear never to marry an ugly woman. She wanted to have a beautiful race. (Could be Goethe influence)

6/18/1927, Saturday

(Weston Daybooks)

Photographing shells and frustrated that the rattling of trucks passing by keeps moving them.

6/18/1930

(Weston Daybooks)

Uses egg cutter and eggs as a still-life objects. To him, the taut wire strings have the appearance of a miniature harp.

6/18/1987 (Knokke, Belgium)

(Keith Haring Journal)

"I am sitting outside on a table made by Niki de St. Phalle, which has two huge sculpture people sitting at it also. There are so many birds here it is amazing. I am sitting

across from the Dragon House[22]*, where we are living. It is really surrealistic. Writing quietly, listening to birds and looking at this dragon."*

6/18/1998

The reason that lyrics sometimes go unnoticed in a piece of music is that the music is so seductive but that doesn't mean that the importance of the lyric together with the music is any less important.

6/18/2003

Idea: Parodies of bands that intentionally sound bad, e.g. "Bad Beatles" "Bad Kiss"...

DVDs are interesting in that you can watch what you want ("Video 45s") and skip the stupid plots all together.

6/18/2004, Friday

9/11 panel finds no Iraq/Al Qaeda link. Bush disputes it: "The reason I keep insisting there was a relationship is because there was a relationship." (It depends on what the definition of "was" is...)

Another beheading of an American in Saudi Arabia. It's not surprising but you still don't want to believe it. Do they use a guillotine?

22. https://manoirdudragon.be/hospitality-runs-in-our-dna-3

6/18/2005, Saturday

I'm enjoying The Now more and more—beautiful crystalline summer mornings, walks to the cafe for coffee in the morning paper—wonderful.

***

Iraq is really a quagmire, but to admit it would be to admit defeat and allow the Democrats to let the "I told you so's" come crashing down.

***

Went to play at the Goodman *The Dollhouse*. Things I liked: the video shoot stage action showing on the widescreen TV—was he really filming it? The video looked very "dogma" with intensity.

6/18/2006, Sunday

The band Garbage was on TV. For the first three or four songs I really liked them, then they plateaued: tempo was the same, texture the same and they became boring. TIL: how guitars sounded like synths, interesting breaks, little melodic figures that were compelling.

6/18/2018

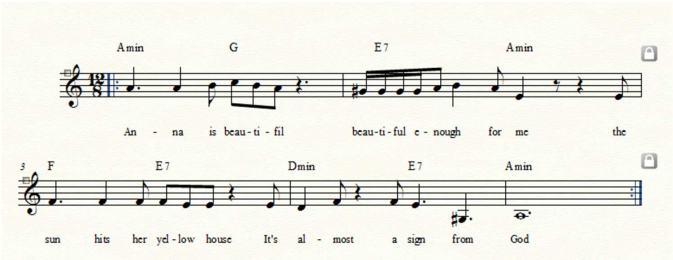
I have two primary strategies in creativity: The most powerful strategy is to impose constraints on some level. In the visual arts it might be color. In music, it might be keys, meter or duration. The other strategy

is the opposite of constraint, where you freely experiment, intentionally avoiding rules. This allows you to do something when there are creative blocks. The downside of free-form creativity is that it is unresolved, at which point you impose rules and constraints to finish the work. Working somewhere on this continuum will work.

Obviously in business the strategies are different because constraints are baked in from the get-go. In that situation, an ethos of creativity within a team structure will determine the results.

6/18/2019

A piece based on the poem a precocious boy ("Jimmy") writes in the film *The Kindergarten Teacher*. "Anna is beautiful, Beautiful enough for me, The sun hits her yellow house, It's almost a sign from God." [Demo on guitar] [23]



6/18/2022

The interesting thing about an image-based culture is that it doesn't require articulation of any kind—or very

23. https://youtu.be/9IgGHV73spE

little. This has evolved from Web 1.0 circa 2000 when people were more inclined to write more—not that there isn't writing now—but people were used to more excursive discussions over e-mail or bulletin boards or listservs. Images were simply more cumbersome then, as one would have to optimize them for the Web to the smallest possible file sizes to be sent over dial-up in data packets.

Now text itself is becoming more optimized for the web as a form of exformation.

The primary example of exformation that has been used as a quick definition is when Victor Hugo inquired with his publisher as to how Les Miserables was selling and used just a question mark "?" and the publisher replied "!". That was essentially emoji.

What is ironic now is that content is being serialized to be binge-consumed—something I have had reservations about. I always wonder why an idea has to be spun out to 8 hours when it could have been just 80 minutes. (Man Ray talked about this in his essays in the late 1920s).

Communication with images disabuses us from having to elaborate on anything because the presupposition is that everyone is busy getting on to the next bit of micro-stimulation, and the emoji is a manifestation of that. Over time, the web itself has discouraged users to engage with any long-form content and has had the same effect on communication: Silences or long peri-

ods between communications are fraught with invisible emoji.

Perhaps Man Ray had the right idea almost 100 years ago: Technology tends to want to give us more and more, then we scale back when we don't need as much. But if it becomes just "?" and "!" all the time then we need expansion and elaboration when necessary. Binging was the extreme solution to something we viewed capable of being infinite—an idea I like, but boredom becomes a factor because it starts to resemble the pace of real life and perhaps emojification is a form of film editing: cutting to form a narrative, but perhaps it cuts cut too much or too little.

The pace of a film that I like is like real life—to the point where there has to be more editing and cutting, but that is an art in itself. Perhaps communication should be like making films such that when it ends you take away some kind of narrative. But films can just be randomly generated, in which case the viewer makes the narrative from bits and fragments.

June 19ths

6/19/1927, Sunday (Glendale)

(Weston Daybooks)

Grayest, coolest spring in memory. Check for $9 from shell print sold in San Diego seems like $100. Shells again yesterday.

6/19/1930 (Carmel)

(Weston Daybooks)

Fog has lifted—brilliant sun. This provides the happy accident of shadows cast upon the work. Played a Caesar Franck Symphony as well as a Bach Concerto, read, sunned, dreamed.

After a walk on the beach, he begins a new series of photographs—of bananas. Then portraiture of Fred Bechdoldt for Carmel Rogue's Gallery.

He thinks photography is a perfect medium for one whose mind is teeming with ideas and is too slowed down with painting and sculpture.

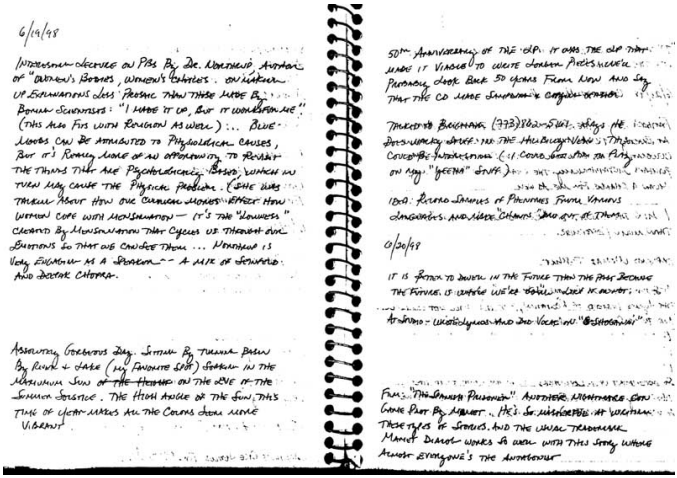
6/19/1987, Friday

(Keith Haring Journal)

Wake up. Fresh orange juice. Tea and rolls with fresh strawberry jelly and eggs from the chickens in the backyard.

6/19/1998, Friday

Absolutely gorgeous day. Sitting by Turning Basin by river and lake, my favorite spot, soaking in the maximum sun on the evening of the summer solstice. High angle of the sun this time of year makes all the colors seem more vibrant. (See photo 6/28/2011)


6/19/98

Interesting lecture on PBS by Dr. Northrup, author of "Women's Bodies, Women's Clothes". On making up explanations less prosaic than those made by boring scientists: "I made it up, but it works for me." (This works for religion as well.) ... Blue moods can be attributed to physiological causes, but it's really more of an opportunity to revisit the things that are psychologically based, which in turn may cause the physical problem. (She was talking about how our cultural mores affect how women cope with menstruation — it's the "lowness" created by menstruation that cycles us through our emotions so that we can see them ... Northrup is very engaging as a speaker — a mix of Schwab and Doctor Chopra.

Assistant Governor Day. Sitting by Thomas Paine by Rivet & Dale (my favorite LP) Sorrow in the Morning Sun ~~of the Hollow~~ on the eve of the Summer Solstice. The high angle of the sun, this time of year makes all the colors look more vibrant.

50th Anniversary of the LP. It was the LP that made it possible to write longer pieces. Probably look back 50 years from now and say that the CD made sampling easier.

Talked to Benchmark (773) 324-5[illegible] about possibly [illegible] the Hallowed Ground's "Pilgrimage" concept presentation (i.e. could [illegible] on Mag. "Queen" [illegible])

1:00: Received samples of Pennies from Heaven, Gangsters, and Mack Sennett [illegible]

6/20/98

It is better to dwell in the future than the past because the future is where we'll be [illegible]

Afternoon: Watched [illegible] and Jackie in "Bobby".

Film: "The Spanish Prisoner". Another Mamet con game part by Mamet. He's so interested in written types of speech. And the usual treachery. Mamet dialog works so well with this story where almost everyone's the antagonist.

50th anniversary of the LP. It was the LP that made it possible to write longer pieces. We'll probably look back 50 years from now and say that the CD and sampling made copying easier.

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Interesting lecture on PBS by Dr. Northrup, author of *Women's Bodies, Women's Clothes*. I'm making up explanations less prosaic than those made by boring scientists: "I made it up, but it works for me." (This works for religion as well.) Blue moods can be attributed to physiological causes, but it's really more of an opportunity to revisit the things that are psychologically based, which in turn, may cause the physical problem. (She was talking about how are cultural mores affect how women cope with menstruation. It's the "lowness" created by menstruation that cycles us through our emotions so that we can see them. Northrup is very engaging as a speaker, such as Deepak Chopra.

6/19/1999, Saturday

Sick of computers. Couldn't get my zip drive loaded on new computer and went out and bought a new one for USB. (I now have three zip drives). Saw B. Hall at Office Depot. She's still playing acoustic bass in classical ensembles and is quite comfortable doing it. I invited her to the studio to see if we might do something with just basses. Back home to hook up new stuff. Boring. I wish I could afford to hire someone to custom design and maintain my cyberworld.

WIHAC moment: Guy smoking joint next to a " just say no to drugs" sign on the same corner as a drugstore.

Playing Neil Young's *Harvest* album on the radio. I like this. The lyrics are interesting but not contrived or stupid. I like the line "flying Mother Nature silver seed to a new home on the Sun."

6/19/2000

Watched *1900 House* (Now my favorite show). just think that people in 1900 had such a stressful life is deceiving. They probably thought, "God, imagine what a drag it was in 1800." In 2100 we'll have *2000 House* showing people stressed out by Windows 98 and slow net connections.

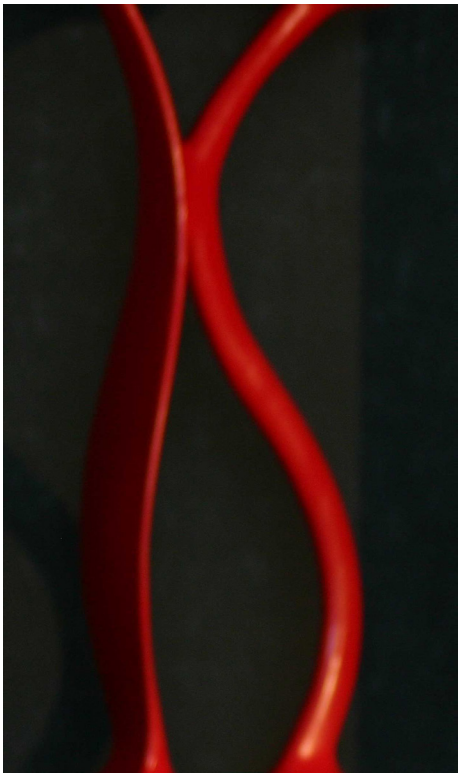
6/19/2004, Saturday

Idea: photo shoot where the models wear black, white, and gray. Everything in the shot is devoid of color, yet

the photos themselves are color. This is the opposite of black and white photography.

6/19/2006

I gave P. my cast iron shoe shine stand, which he will paint fire engine red. This can be used as a Readymade (*Redimade*).



6/19/2010, Saturday

Field recordings: Adams El Station[24], AI Garden-Michigan Avenue to River[25]

6/19/2011, Sunday

Father's Day. Had a chat with Chris and kvetched about work woes.

***

Clarence Clemons died at 69. I can hear his sax now...

24. Adams El Station: bit.ly/3Qd2euu
25. Art Institute Garden-Michigan Avenue to River: bit.ly/3Cm4udg

6/19/2016, Sunday

Residues (What Side Are You On?) 22' x 30" acrylic and color pencil on paper.

As layers were gradually removed in the process, a topographical metaphor emerged from the grid of faint red lines: As water recedes and rises new patterns appear (like an archipelago) on the surface (not unlike Smithson's Spiral Jetty). Ultimately, I have Smithson and Ellsworth Kelly influences here, but it wasn't completely intentional, although I did look at Kelly's simple shapes to research asymmetry as a way to resolve squareness. Smithson was a "residue". (Signed on the back allowing any orientation)

6/19/2021, Saturday

Book: *City At the Edge of Forever*. The author said he was "Los Angelicized" as if taken over by aliens and pulled to the west coast as if under a spell. (This again, is the myth of heading west.]

***

Where is the joy? There was a song that came out in the 70s, Where Is the Love? by Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway. Where's the joy in new technologies? If people get sustenance out of it and it gives them a sense peace and calmness within themselves then I think they've found the joy. But if you get anxiety from it why do it? That's when you have to stop and ask yourself, "Am I finding joy in this or is it just making me anxious and depressed?" These days I think most things do. I feel fortunate because I can pick up an instrument and get a sense of joy in just playing it. But not everybody can do that. It takes a long time to get to that level and people aren't spending large amounts of time

on those kinds of things anymore, sadly. If you can find something that's equivalent to learning an instrument over the course of a lifetime and finding a lot of joy in that then that's a technology worth pursuing.

June 20ths

6/20/1998, Saturday

It is better to dwell in the future than past because the future is where we're going like it or not.

Film: *The Spanish Prisoner*. Another nightmare con-game plot by Mamet. He's so masterful at writing these types of stories and the usual trademark Mamet dialogue works so well with this story where almost everyone's the antagonist.

There's nothing wrong with cynicism as long as it's the truth.

6/20/1999, Sunday

Spent a few hours in studio going over "Highway Cinema" ideas. Did rough mix on "Road Heat", practiced Brazilian bass lines.

Over to P.'s to check out his cable modem. Makes the internet less of a slog. Perhaps I should get this.

6/20/2003

Is a theocracy created by means of democracy, democracy can be a great vehicle or evil, and destroy all "virtues" of theocracy. Actually, theocracy is an oxymoron.

6/20/2004, Sunday

Technology frees us from the physical, tactile senses, such that it is no longer necessary to play a musical instrument to make music. It also frees us from having to remember things, as they are relegated to stored data rather than encoded memory in the brain. (Amnesia is easier if your brain is a "hard drive"). Software will obviate our natural abilities and will devolve from the species. When there's no need to remember something, you won't.

Prince: "People are starting to realize I'm a musician."

6/20/2010, Sunday

Father's Day.

Opening and award ceremony at Coastal Arts Gallery and Kellicutt Award. Susan Monroe won the $2,000 prize for her 'Blossom From Devastation'.

Dream: Frag 1: I was in a storefront studio. The engineer was mixing some dance music. I said I hated dance music. Frag 2: I was with a group of people and we were trapped in a tiny space. A huge freight train then rumbled past with a deafening roar, its cars just inches from us. We then walked into a plaza of some kind and there was a ring of pine trees arranged in a circular pattern, like Stonehenge, They were all sawed off at about 20 feet.

***

Field Recordings: Austin Gardens—Oak Park[26], Mills Park[27].

Thatcher Woods:

6/20/2011

Walked over to the Cultural Center for exhibit of hand-painted movie posters from Ghana. Comically savage with decapitations and squirting blood. They look really old but date back only 20-25 years. Really liked them. Went to the rotunda for tail end of Brahms quintet. Quite a contrast.

26. Austin Gardens: bit.ly/3vAFBXp
27. Mills Park: bit.ly/3WGE5Pw

6/20/2012

Summer Solstice Shadow moment:

6/20/2016

In the future, doctors won't need offices, law won't need courtrooms. That feedback loop will affect architecture itself as it adapts to the world inside computers, with disinvestment in the built environment.

What might be interesting, and is happening more an more is that data becomes the main material like paint. We visualize (paint) our experiences.

Interesting: Vonnegut's Shapes of Stories. When we sort and categorize, then those expectations will be formed. Do we want to expect everything?

***

Question: Can you be a music composer without being able to play any instrument?

If this was asked 30 years ago the answer would have been a definite Yes. But I've had a change of heart about it, especially in electronic music, that has gradually separated instrumental facility with composition, that I am loosely defining as a "logical temporal arrangement of sound" (or illogical in the avant-garde). I have operated in both departments of traditional through-composed forms to ambient music. Both are areas where composition can occur. As others here have said, anything you can bang on is technically an instrument, but the point of distinction is whether you can write music that can be played by other people. I have written for strings, but I don't play any instruments in the viol family. If

you fully understand the characteristics of an instrument (ranges and so on) as well as the technical level of the players, you might be able to live up to the title.

More important than playing the instrument is making the instructions that others follow, which means knowing notation to the highest level. So that would be my answer for 30 years ago. But contemporary composition is a different animal that doesn't require "instruments" as we know them traditionally. In that world, instruments are secondary to timbre, which is in most cases completely synthetic and virtual, and is more of a visual art in how it is constructed.

6/20/2019

Augery (Trump Tower in fog)

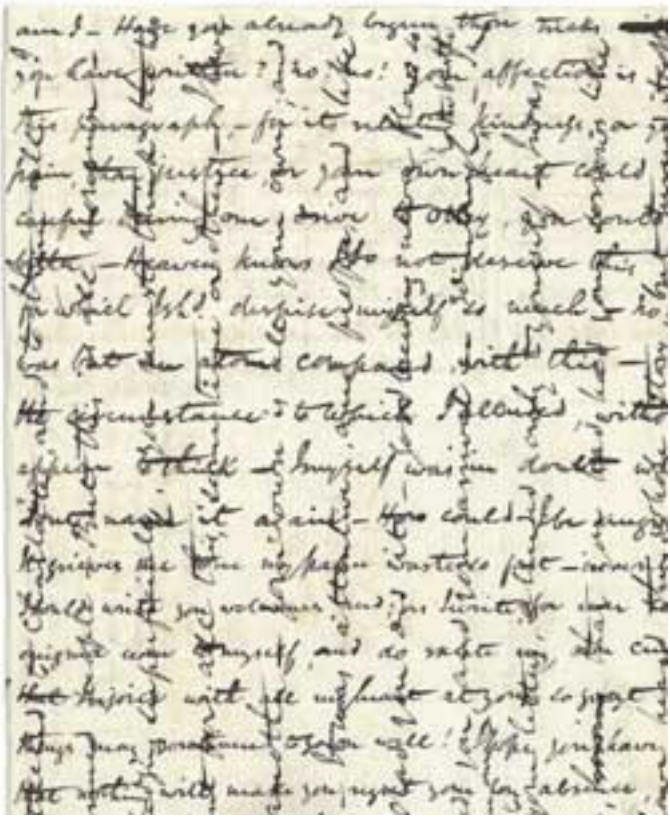
6/20/2020, Saturday

Studio and video: *Moon Roads* (E-G#-D-F# Tuning) In notation this looks extremely complex, but I'm essentially fretting notes on the G# string in combination with harmonics on the D and F# strings (a major third interval in harmonics). Playing harmonics vertically across all four strings results in a dominant 9th chord. Once I put the Rhodes part on, it was instant Steely Dan.

June 21sts

6/21/1824

Cross-written letter from Anne Lister, Shibden Hall, to [Sibbella] Maclean of Coll, Tobermory.



6/21/2004

Michael Moore's documentary blockbuster *Fahrenheit 911* comes out this week. It's the liberal's *Passion* and says more about the nature of democracy than organized religion or the Bible ever did. The thing they have in common is that it recontextualizes reality.

***

There are conservative artists out there these days, which is surprising. You would think they'd be dyed-in-the-wool Democrats. (I think it's possible to be hawkish and a dove).

***

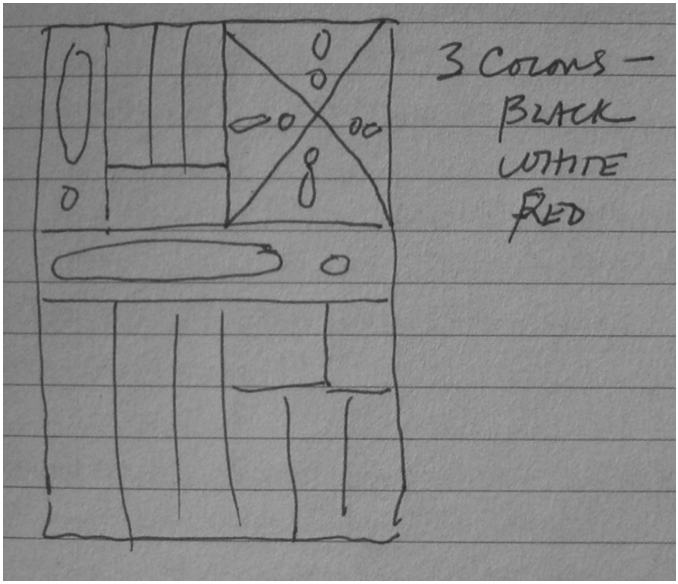
Interesting: The "ghosty" photos of Edmund Teske. He was photoshopping images, even before Photoshop, and they still look interesting.

***

Private rocket goes to the edge of the atmosphere. (Boundary exploration). Even though most of us will never experience it, it's good to know someone's done it. Possibility creates possibility.

6/21/2009, Sunday

In studio: Working on "exclamation point!" painting (*Achtung*)



Bought the iPhone. When you get one of these, they become a body organ you can't live without. It remains to be seen if it informs life or becomes another distraction.

6/21/2011

Summer solstice 12:15 which I totally missed. Solstices are a spiritual experience for me.

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Social behavior has grown progressively callous over the past few years. Social media is changing our wiring in fundamental ways, just as TV did 60 years ago.

***

Nasty storm PM. Tornado warnings. Went out to do some field recording of approaching storm. Just missed sirens.

6/21/1987, Sunday

(Keith Haring Journal)

"Wake up at noon. People are arriving for lunch....Everyone is in the Dragon looking at my drawings. I already feel like this is my apartment and feel trespassed upon. Lunch for 20: wild boar."

6/21/1995

(Eno Diary)

"Bowie called the gallery in the afternoon to wish us luck and spoke at some length—as usual very funny and enthusiastic. Asked about U2 album - would it conflict with his? I said no - we're releasing later, and it's different."

6/21/1998, Sunday

Father's Day and the summer solstice. The event happened at exactly 9:03 a.m. and I took a walk around town celebrating the celestial turning points, hoping

that perhaps metaphorically the changing of seasons may mean a change for me as well.

I like the concept of "experience designer" rather than music performer.

6/21/1999

Lunchtime concert by Nigerian group, me munching my thinking food, popcorn. In many ways recorded music is better than a performance because it gives you the option of turning it off.

Summer solstice. Came and went at 2:49 p.m. while I was stuck in a meeting.

In the studio late doing harmony vocals on "Party Girl". (going for the thick, airy texture).

6/21/2000

The web is about "meaningful miniatures". A short video clip that's meaningful is better than a 2-minute clip that takes 5 minutes to download and winds up being not worth the time.

Pop art has become stupid. (Was it always seen this way?)

Fascinating article in Pulse magazine by Andy Partridge, bemoaning "stupid" art.

Possible letter in reply:

So incredibly sad that such a brilliant songwriter like Andy Partridge spilled his guts in an international Music Magazine, almost apologizing for even wanting to write a song. I hear so much crap passing as songs these days, and my eyes well up when I think about Andy's plight. To see XTC perform their songs is seeing the essence of songwriting, actually physically playing music, as opposed to [playing samples]. While I can see the artistic merit in music created with samples, and in many cases quite intelligent, most of it is just lazy crap getting passed off as art. If someone has never heard of XTC and thinks the current stuff is good, they have their head up their ass.

6/21/2001

New Mac G4 delivered, plus 19-inch NEC monitor.

6/21/2002, Friday

First day of summer. Ooh-la-la!

Checked out Althus-Bertrand photo exhibit in Grant Park. Absolutely stunning. I heard lots of people making the comment that they looked like paintings, when in fact, photography is the progeny of the art of painting. It also impresses me is that there is some element of risk in the photos. The best one: the nudist beach in Rio where 300 people laid down on the sand and the photographer shot them from a helicopter. Now that's great foreplay!

6/21/2012

Sunset shadows, train platform:

6/21/2014, Saturday

Field recording at Lurie Garden[28]. There are three spatial layers: sound of birds (foreground 1), human voices (foreground 2); mechanical noises (background 1), wind, traffic and other white noise (background 2). There are some birds that sound like mechanical noises which is an interesting juxtaposition.

6/21/2018

What I always thought was interesting about AI is that in the process of making something artificial you learn more about being human. From a purely mechanical standpoint, emotions can be quantified, then interpreted by machines, but human-to-human will never be

28. Lurie Garden: bit.ly/3WMzc7J

the same as human-to-machine. Why would we want it to?

6/21/2020, Sunday

Studio: "Esperanti" (Electric Moon), video as well. A delicate stripped-down bass/guitar counterpoint version to the original "Menilmontant" scoring. The title could be a good name for a car.

6/21/2021, Monday

This is a very interesting morning—the wind is blowing quite strong and the dapple is coming in with a nice shimmering effect. It's Monday morning so it's AI day. Read article about dealing with music AI on its own level: We don't have to make it do everything—we just have to deal with its limitations. When you use the limitations of something you can become very creative with it. Interesting that you can choreograph robots to do different rhythmic and gestural routines, or as a kind of animated sculpture driven by music. That's something that I would do, but whether that's "AI" is questionable. It's just programming, but also another slippage point. Lots of this is stuff we've been doing for 50 years now and we're repackaging it as something that is the future. The future in many ways is a repackaging and rebranding of the past, just as lots of things are.

***

I was thinking about the Blockchain as a new music distribution system. This is an example of forcing

technology on something that is perhaps not a really top-level problem. We must uphold the idea of copying in the arts as a form of homage. You can't lock down the thing. So the idea that we're going to create this new system to lock everything down is going to take the spirit out of everything. Copying in the future might entail getting a hold of a data set and that's so anticlimactic and almost depressing to think that's how we're going to be be making music in the future.

***

It's quite an interesting start to summer. Soon after the summer solstice there was a tornado that came through the area—albeit 20 miles south of here. It was pretty scary because nowadays whenever there's some kind of an alert, even a really minor one, you get very loud alerts on your phone. I was getting my go-bag ready to go down to the basement and it was starting to very windy outside. But it just blew over but many areas received a lot of damage. Tornadoes are relatively rare here, but this one was big.

6/21/2022

Summer solstice and record-breaking heat, 100 degrees.

Day 4 of 1/6 hearings. I still can't believe this kind of thing is happening in the US.

***

Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn have been aligning in order this month for the first time in 18 years. Also, McCartney at 80, Watergate @50.

June 22nds

6/22/1965

John Cage writes to Buckminster Fuller asking for a $1000 donation to the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts.

6/22/1995

(Eno Diary)

"Garden picnic - all mothers and children plus me, at last relaxed. Lovely dappled light; soft warmth."

6/22/1998

Dream: Invention idea where lift or crane is used to "hang" one car on top of another to ease parking congestion in urban areas. (Like a banana hanger for cars)

6/22/1999

Lunch with John S. He wants to come in the studio and lay rhythm tracks for an entire album. I think if we do it that way it will give it consistency but might be too boring over 10 songs. I volunteered to produce

and he seemed to like the idea, but I think I might be too arty for him.

***

To Charles Ray exhibit at MCA. Fascinating. The piece with 8 mannequins of himself is an orgy is somewhat shocking. It was funny that he spent nine months working on making clay models of himself giving a blow job to another facsimile of himself or that he hired someone to make a clay copy of his own cock—and spent thousands of dollars doing it. My favorite was "Perfect Wreck".

***

Idea: Music released like software, where you can "upgrade" albums or collections, a series of songs that continually develops and unfolds, like the soap opera.

***

Watched John Callaway's final show. It's kind of sad to see him go, but he certainly does need to get into shape. A rousing standing ovation at the end, and I thought, " does it get any better for a person?"

6/22/2000

I love this time of the year, when I can get up, sit at my kitchen table at 5:30A and have the sun beaming brightly on my table.

Interesting observation: While looking at the parabolic map of the world, the sunset at the northern latitudes is actually in the southern sky.

***

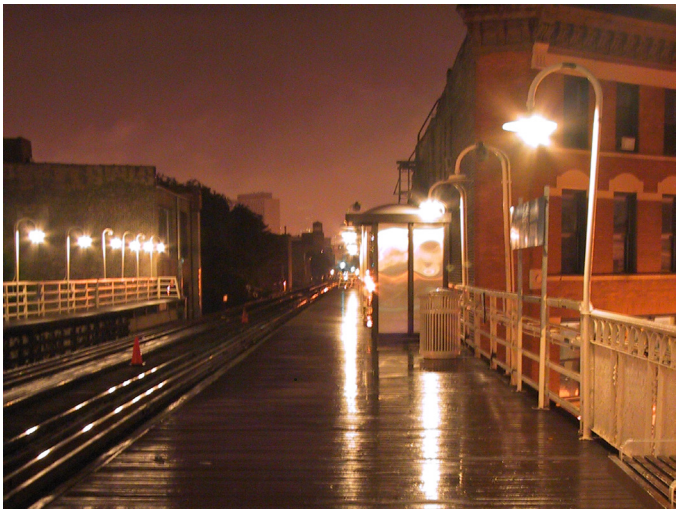
What you really are is how "the world" sees you. If a large majority of the people that know you see you in a certain light, that is what you are to "the world". The object then is to make a new "world".

6/22/2002, Saturday

Stroll through AB exhibit again, and I realized how deceitful these photos are. They are all stunningly beautiful, but in reality they depict war, disaster, abject poverty and pillage of the earth, and here we are as bourgeois voyeurs, drooling over their beauty and buying books, mugs, and t-shirts. (But isn't all good art deceit, or perhaps "bait and switch"?)

Went to John Leguizamo's *Sexaholics* show at the Oriental Theater.

Damen El Stop, Wicker Park:



6/22/2003, Sunday

The most interesting thing about the Bible is that it reduces life down to one book, and reduces and streamlines the process of life. The worst thing about Bibles is that they become manifestos, to the exclusion of subjective views of life.

At noon I went to a "blues club" downtown, set up as a type of gallery with photos, old funky furniture, with live music.

6/22/2011

There is nothing to be gained in the arts with a fundamental declinist view. It is undeniably important to

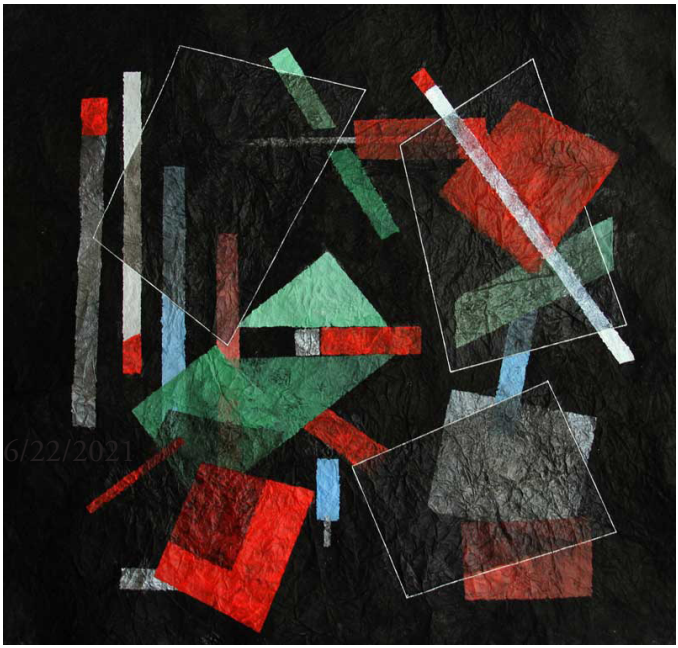
explore art history recursively, and to have reverence for methods and practices of the past. But they are by no means sacrosanct. Analog recordings on vinyl were the only medium for playing recorded music circa 1965, but technologies to supplant it were in development, just as future recording technologies are currently in development. As an artist I am eager to explore all possibilities, sometimes re-exploring the old ones to revisit what I liked about them, but not to entirely reject them.

6/22/2014, Sunday

Studio: *The Bunker*. Fellow Humans I095. Also use Bunker sequence on disc 27 with Modern Rock kit.

6/22/2019, Saturday

Black Marubozu, 20 x 10.75 inches, acrylic and pen on lotka paper.



I was thinking about "yesterday's tomorrows" and the different ways that we can look at past, present, and future. Given that we have such short attention spans because of the firehose of information, we forget that we did something in the past already and it seems new to us. (I was thinking you could take an entire newspaper from five years ago and edit it so it looks like today's newspaper since we just repeat things as a society and the media keeps reporting on it).

***

Title idea: "Paper Trampoline". Lyric: People go up and down, but they fall right through.

June 23rds

6/23/1944, Friday

(Diary of Anne Frank)

"The British have begun their all-out attack on Cherbourg. According to Pim and Mr. van Oaan, we're sure to be liberated before October 10. The Russians are taking part in the campaign; yesterday they started their offensive near Vitebsk, exactly three years to the day that the Germans invaded Russia."

6/23/1998

"Soul" is defined by that which is controlled by the muscles, the breath, the way the mind works, which observe these processes and make adjustments accordingly, all the while being consumed by the spirit of the moment.

Classical music is hard to position in the culture because it's so hard to match with other pieces of culture. It's like furniture: you have an armoire in the rococo style that was built by the finest craftsmen, took two years to make, but it is difficult to fit with the exercise

equipment and the green Naugahyde chair that your mother gave you when you left home at 21. (Solution: exercise equipment in rococo style).

Stopped by Terra Museum to check out new Chicago artists exhibit. Every time I go to these art shows I think, "I wish I could do this with music."

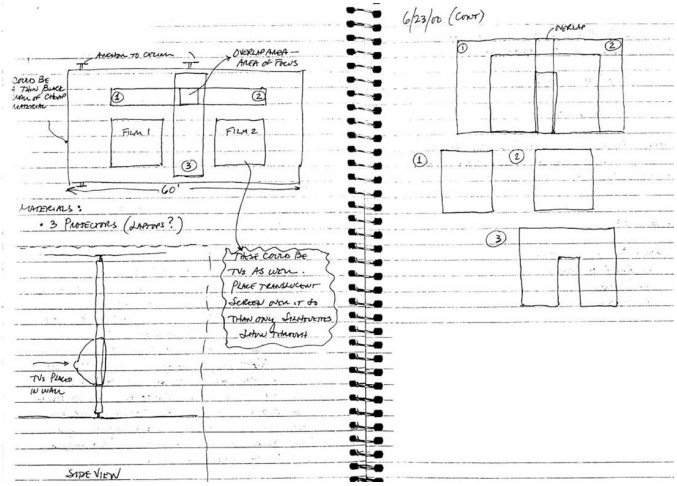
6/23/2000, Friday

Cool summer so far.

Interview on TV with Malcolm Gladwell, author of The Tipping Point. This is fascinating stuff, although the critical thinking in me thinks that none of this is extraordinary really original as it reports to be. Richard Dawkins said many of these things 25 years ago vis-a-vis mimetics theory. Gladwell is brilliant and articulate though, and he brings a clear approach to the subject matter.

***

Possible installation:



6/23/2001, Saturday

Grant Park concert with S. Mostly a yawn (yawn on the lawn). Then to MCA for summer solstice celebration, shadow puppet play on front windows.

6/23/2004

Went to see the Michael Moore documentary. There's a real anti-Bush buzz of this film, but it's largely preaching to the choir. It's doubtful it is going to change anyone's mind. (I liked *Fog of War* better). As I watched it, I was thinking about the power of context or lack thereof. There's more to critical thinking than a Michael Moore documentary. You'd better spend your time with Chomsky, Hersch, or Woodward, but if you read some of those books, Moore's work can amplify

your views. The power of film is in the power of the edit and the editorial. The film should have had a bibliography, list of sources.

6/23/2009

Went to Cheney mansion in Oak Park, A grand old building built in 1908, when the rich started fleeing from the city. The house is replete with a "servants common" now used as a TV room, containing a widescreen TV made by servants in China.

***

We can assume that nothing except a park and a parking lot will replace the Colt given the tight credit markets. I would imagine that when the proposed Station Street goes in, it will define what gets built there. All new buildings should be no more than 3 stories with shops/cafes at street level. The current parking area behind the Caribou should be turned into a plaza with a fountain, garden and benches. Architecture should be in Prairie or Art deco styles. Being an artist ,I love the idea of artist studios, but artists seem to always get eventually get pushed away once a developer takes over. Oak Park has also already established its art district on Harrison, so I don't think the village would change it. We should get artists and architects to submit possible plans for the area. They'd never be taken seriously, but it would be interesting to see how residents envision the town, rather than developers. I believe a portion of it will be some type of 'green space'. The real eyesore will be that ugly blank wall, and clear view of the equal-

ly horrific Old Navy and Pier One buildings. Taxman will be notorious for ruining Oak Park.

6/23/2010

Intense storms 5P, tornado warnings. Managed to capture sound of storm. After storm passed sat on couch for sky canvas, rainbow and beautiful painterly clouds, zapped with gentle and silent heat lightning.

6/23/2018, Saturday

I admire people that are great artists that have had little training. This is different than people that have neither, and yet make the assertion that having deep knowledge somehow scares away the muse. That said, it's extremely useful to know how to notate music, even if it's knowing key signatures, time signatures, and chord symbols, rather than "it goes like this." Also musicians that know theory are more capable of sussing out the music, and don't need to be directed all the time. Anyone can be an "effects" musician, but effects+theory is always better.

6/23/2019, Sunday

The composer really is the controller of emotion at the harmonic level. If a composer gets a commission to write the music (or even choose the music as a director) for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth at some point (she is 93), a consideration of the cultural elements is supremely important. This is where Universals become useful. Perhaps over time, traditions themselves drive the decisions and knowing what the Universals are is

intuitive. In this example, my intuition tells me that the harmony is strictly functional and perhaps plagal. It shouldn't be modern or contemporary or (gasp) jazz—but even jazz can be used in the right contexts, along with angular (or even dissonant) harmony. Jazz resonates at the spiritual level, but it has to be "Sunday morning", not "Saturday night", even if the chord changes you used are the same. This is where I think you might be alluding to "nuture", i.e. the proper treatment of small details surrounding some kind of ritual and the place in which it occurs. The appreciation comes in the appropriateness of the music in a situational context.

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It's nice if a vocal has a rhythmic connection to the underlying arrangement, but it can be less locked. With preexisting lyrics it is common to edit them so they can be rhythmically coherent. Singing against existing music is easier because the words can wrap around or float freely above it. In my experience, the stage at which lyrics are introduced makes all the difference in the result. Writing from lyrics makes for more of a concise melody, one that could actually be notated on a lead sheet. That's how it was always done back in the day.

6/23/2022

1/6 Hearing, Day 5.

6/24/1898, Friday (Berlin)

(Kessler Diary)

Dinner at Richters' with Bulow and his wife. While Bulow speaks carefully it comes across as dishonest but really isn't. It's just a broadening of opinion as a person ages, and is more cautious.

June 24ths

6/24/1987

(Keith Haring Journal)

"Paint all day. Finish all the paintings....At 10:00 PM we all go to the house for dinner. Nice dinner, except I got stoned after I finished painting so I am a bit spaced-out. I don't talk much during dinner."

6/24/2004

Cool summer so far, mostly 70s.

Scene idea: Deliberately light conversation around the dinner table, right in the middle of a rancorous narrative. (Ironic interlude) (What is more interesting is that the actors don't know the irony!)

6/24/2009

Obama's push for national healthcare reform has reached a flash-point. He is supposed to sign the bill on

October 15, my birthday. A single-payer system would be a great present! I would quit in a heartbeat. Companies offer health care because this gives the impression they care about your well-being. If they gave you six weeks vacation (a week every two months) you might need so much health care.

6/24/2010

Gorgeous day as the result of yesterday's wrath of nature.

Pre-occupation with the weather is the sign of a bored existence, or at least an over-simple one.

6/24/2011

Weather cool and cloudy, a bit surreal for late June.

Lunch with D. Showed him my Fortune Art idea.

6/24/2012, Sunday

Annual Pride Parade. After a while, boring, ironically. Walk to lakefront more enjoyable.

Caldwell Lily Pool (Lincoln Park)

6/24/2021

An interesting way that you could use artificial intelligence in music, specifically with meter and rhythm, is to take, for example, groups of 2 and 3—which is how polyrhythms and mixed meter and odd meter pieces are are shaped, and have some randomization

of that. It would continuously run in the background and then you'd listen to it and capture interesting snapshots or "stills". This goes back to my idea of putting these things on a mixing board in a separate channel, with a "meter" channel that is constantly running and then you'd just pull up the fader and see what's there. If there's nothing there then you just don't use it. It's similar to turning on the radio at random or opening a book at random.

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Podcast Episodes:

Music For Places: Music For Photographs (Bronson Tropics)[29], Music For Places Series (Explained)[30], Containers of Music.[31]

6/24/2022

Roe v. Wade overturned by conservative super-majority. Stunning—almost hard to believe. Another reason to revisit Dynaxiom 449: "America is a progressive nation—always building on what it already is, not going back to what it was before. (2005). I texted LL and he wasn't even aware of it. We knew it was coming so it was really not that much of a shock but it still is an "erosion"—like my idea a few years ago about aesthetic erosion where over time in the art and music world we get inured to the idea that things are constantly chang-

29. https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/RdsCOJlbvub

30. https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/QRG8FGubvub

31.

ing and changing in a way that is less than what we had. The postmodernist world is elementally disruptive where change happens very quickly and people adapt accordingly, and so they start behaving differently. This erosion has also happened in democracy as recently as 2016 but probably started with the assassination of Kennedy. We were able to hang on to those values up until now but there's a reversion back to the 1950s—or even earlier—medieval in some sense. There are things that that might be coming in the future that we never thought would happen, but that's history for you. It's always an erosion and then all of a sudden people want what they had back, built upon all the other erosion. It's like building houses on stilts to withstand hurricanes: a few are still standing amid all the erosion.

June 25ths

6/25/1986

(Keith Haring Journal)

"The best reason to paint is that there is no reason to paint. I'd like to pretend that I've never seen anything, never read anything, never heard anything...and then make something. Every time I make something I think about the people who are going to see it and every time I see something I think about the person who made it. Nothing is important...so, everything is important."

6/25/1987, Friday

(Keith Haring Journal)

"Wake up and go to the Casino to hang the show....We re-confirm our request for five Prince tickets for Monday night. The man from the record company assures me it should be no problem....It's really satisfying to make the things and really fulfilling to see people's response to them, but the rest is difficult...."

6/25/1995

(Eno Diary)

"Dreadful weather: gray, wet, cold. Mud everywhere.... Ideas worth questioning: 'Being an artist is a job for life.'"

6/25/1998

Chicago teacher/singer-songwriter uses songs to teach math. This is not a new concept; novelty songs and nursery rhymes have been used for ages as learning tools. Interesting thing about it is that it's music used as a utility, stripped of its cultural function, which is useful in that it indicates that music is not just something we can just discard after we've "read" it. It's nice that there is a use for music other than for entertainment or an emotional outlet.

Religious people somehow think that current consciousness, brain function, and memory survive after the body dies, so that the disembodied spirit has all

the memories stored, so they can step back and recall everything that ever happened to "them". (Is this the "memory" that Sheldrake talks about?) In the situation of multiple lives, what form does memory take? Do you remember all of a sudden what happened on September 15th 12:50 and had biscuits for breakfast, or does it manifest in terms of events in your current life, such as accidents, illnesses, and other problems, and how is that related to memory"? Hmmm.

Interesting documentary on PBS on Rod Serling and *The Twilight Zone*. He loved being a celebrity, but once he started doing commercial spots, he lost his credibility as an artist. Now it enhances you career. It shows that you can lighten up and have fun. No one likes that heavy artist stuff anymore unless there's a mystique that translates well to product endorsements or some cause celebre like the homeless, AIDS, or human rights. But his writing was brilliant. Interesting that he didn't rewrite. Jack Klugman, who acted in it, said that Sterling had a way of constructing dialogue that had lots of good words you could roll around in your mouth. There really is something to what kinds of words you can use in those you can't. (P. likes the word "lethe". It's difficult to sing in a pop context-opera is different).

If jazz didn't have such intricate harmonic rules, would it still sound like jazz?

6/25/2001

Possible situation for band: You are a composer in an authoritarian regime and can only write a state-spon-

sored type of music. In your spare time you stealthily search the web to listen to cutting-edge music from the free world, and beyond. Write/play the music that has inspired you. The year: 2199. Also write some state-sponsored music.

6/25/2002

Went to Gerhard Richter exhibit at Art Institute. Awesome. I've always liked his work (especially the blurry, smeared, "squeegee" paintings and now I realized how much other stuff he did, the big abstracts, equally as good. The Warhol influence is all over his work, but being an artist in the early 60s, that would have been hard to avoid.

6/25/2004, Friday

Iraq handover, two days early. This is a cunning strategy: set a date certain, then do it a few days early, i.e. create tension and release it prematurely.

This is largely a symbolic act. The Iraqis only have a virtual freedom. The US is still the occupier and the people are the indentured servants that pay for their freedom with oil. The US is essentially a landlord with the huge war reparation lien. (Intentionally break something and then charge them to fix it).

6/25/2007

Listened to Fresh Air program about two Philadelphia high school teachers that were seriously beaten by students. The teacher that had no memories of the beating was more able to forgive and move on, whereas the teacher that did have memories was continually haunted by it. Is it better or worse to have memories? (The ideal is to have selective memory). It was also interesting that teacher "A" had to see surveillance video in order to recall the event, yet it didn't seem like it was his memory, rather a "staged" memory, In the end, I sympathize with teacher "B". It is better to be hyper-aware rather than in a fantasy world of temporary short-term memories.

6/25/2009

Michael Jackson dead at 50 (apparent cardiac arrest). They say the music transcends the notoriety, but how does it compare to the musical contributions of Mozart or Duke Ellington? Elvis was "The King", was more of a performer/celebrity that happened to be musical, rather than a musician per se.

Farah Fawcett dead at 62 choose from anal cancer. (The media nicely downplayed that one.) She was the poster girl of 1970s TV pop, and reminds me of Lichtenstein's "Ball Girl".

6/25/2011

New York votes in favor of gay marriage. The 'Gay Spring'...

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In studio: Did variations of the short silent film by the Lumiere Brothers, 'Danse Serpentine' featuring dancer Loie Fuller.

***

Interesting idea for data searching: use fuzzy queries like "in summer" , "April or May", "before [event]"

6/25/2019

Ever since the 50s, contemporary music has been simplifying elements and/or removing them: melodies became simpler and were repeated, harmony was reduced to 1-3 chords, and by the time Hip Hop emerged rhythms were replaced by beats, and melody and harmony were removed. The next phase of evolution has to be in AI, algorithms, code because it's already a popular thing. Music always gets left behind in the rush to do what everyone else is doing. If musicians were smart these days they'd be artfully introducing new ways of approaching pop music. In my opinion, the AI stuff being done is really uninteresting.

6/25/2020

A while back I had posted on a Facebook music theory group the hypothetical that if film existed in the 1800s, which composers would have been interested in scoring films. I don't recall the responses, but Beethoven probably would not have, and perhaps Mozart would. It's a matter of whether a composer is more apt to easily embrace new trends.

Now if film existed in 1800 would ambient music have also been used, given that ambient music is often the soundtrack of imaginary films? I'd say yes. If Satie was alive in the 1800s and cinema existed he'd be into ambient music because of it's cinematic quality.

6/25/2021

Podcast Episode: Emotional Piquancy In Music[32]

6/25/2022

I was at Austin Gardens watching the OPFT erect the stage and they were playing Alice Cooper's *Billion Dollar Babies* and it felt like 1973, just when Roe was decided.

32. https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/zzWvFzTbvub

June 26ths

6/26/1930, Carmel

(Weston Daybooks)

Sun breaks through fog. Up to roof of Neil's cottage for sunning, then back for cold tub. New banana negatives look great.

6/26/1995 (Innsbruck)

(Eno Diary)

"Swim, then walking. Innsbruck for art supplies, knee bandages, mirrors....Everyone in the hospital variously crippled - one after another, at least 20 people hobbled in. It was like candid camera till it suddenly clicked: Innsbruck = skiing."

6/26/1997

Dream: A masseuse was giving me a massage on the lawn in front of P.'s house and the police came and broke it up.

6/26/1998, Friday

Some people are averse to art which is done by mechanical means, but to work mechanically is not to worry about what you're going to do next, or to wonder if the news is going to be in a good mood. (Thoughts after

reading a critique of Chuck Close's photorealism, in defense of working by "mechanical" means).

6/26/1999, Saturday

Up early, ran errands, configured new computer and voice recognition program. Decided I needed a film and took subway to see *Winslow Boy*. Excellent djembe player in subway, which got me thinking "bass is a string drum". It would be interesting to form a group with djembes, fretless bass and African vocalist. Winslow Boy boring. I guess I wasn't in the mood for Mamet. Too wordy.

6/26/2003

I saw a woman passing me on the El platform who looked exactly like my neighbor Gloria. I waited for her to acknowledge me, but she appeared to ignore me, and then I realized it wasn't her. Thinking it was Gloria, she looked dazed, as if her mind went blank with amnesia, looking almost plastic, like a robot or a clone. (Seeing people that look like a clone of people you know).

6/26/2011, Sunday

Annual Pride Parade on the heels of New York ruling. Palpably more exciting, more heavy security. Apparently tires slashed on floats overnight. This year tuned into the Bible banger spectacle, so devoid of seriousness that everyone has fun with it. Sometimes you wonder if it is staged, like a haunted house.

The old Village Theater. Saw many a film there, now showing "0":

6/26/2017

Read article on "Totalism" on how cults form around a feeling of disorganized detachment, a kind of learned helplessness assuaged by tribal cohesion and a sense of "you're not alone". That's the reason FB is the go-to place for lots of people because they can get comforts there. It's like treats in the kitchen, and sometimes you can hang out and chit-chat.

6/26/2019

Most prog bands from the 70s had members that were well-versed in theory, especially the keyboard players. I have heard many tribute bands where the music is learned completely by ear, and they sound even better than the bands themselves. You could simply wood-shed by playing along with records. that's how most of us did it.

6/26/2021, Saturday

Podcast Episodes: The Feel Of Time[33], Using "AI" to Control Improvisation[34], What Are You Looking At?[35], Joining At the Hip[36]

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33. https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/fAMflc4bvub
34. https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/QP69piG-cvub
35. https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/SyAUprMcvub
36. https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/9qU0qiQcvub

6/26/2022

Interesting: Availability Bias. Just because the media piles on to covering some kind of story, people thinks it's an epidemic. This happens with weather events, volcanoes, earthquakes and so on. The algorithm is watching you, and pulls more content for you to watch. This leads to the conclusion that there is more than happening in the world. This is also when the fundamental attribution error comes into play: people start to make patterns and then use their confirmation biases to substantiate their positions. People like things to be resolved, and they like to resolve things in groups. They don't realize that they are militating and snubbing other people. All that matters is that dopamine release and the internet and social media feed it.

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What happens to a society where everyone is seeing a therapist? Someone is always advising people what to do about their problems and so they have to adjust their personality, and the person you're dealing with essentially becomes another person—a stranger you once knew, but is now a passing acquaintance—like passing the person who I thought was Gloria back in 2003.

Consider a society where everybody is has some kind of chronic illness and they have to go to the doctor all the time, perhaps two or three times a week. Society couldn't function. People would get used to the idea of always having to be under the care of somebody and to advise them on everything that they're doing. (I'm a

proponent of working from the core personality traits, so you always are the authentic you).

June 27ths

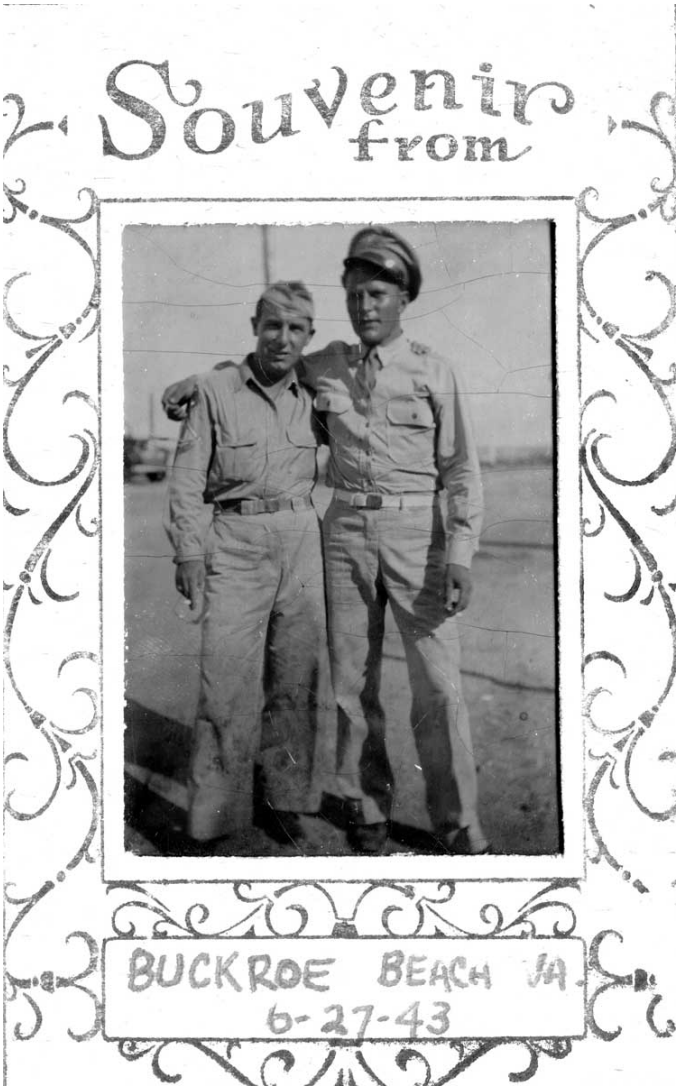
6/27/1930, Friday

(Weston Daybooks)

Last night with Jeanne D'Orge and Carl Cherry. Carl has new phonograph amplifier and played a Bach fugue and Ravel's Bolero. The volume was overpowering, excellent tone.

6/27/1943, Sunday

My father with Army bud, Buckroe Beach, Virginia.



6/27/1944

(Diary of Anne Frank)

"...In the three weeks since D Day there hasn't been a day without rain and storms, neither here nor in France, but this bad luck hasn't kept the British and the Americans from displaying their might....Finland turned down a peace offer some time ago, and now the negotiations have been broken off again. Those numbskulls, they'll be sorry!"

6/27/1995

(Eno Diary)

"Sitting in the Scandic Crown this morning, watching the sun on the mountains and reading The Leopard after my swim in the totally deserted pool seemed just fine to me.... there was a delicious warm wind blowing from somewhere - probably Italy. I wondered what it would be like just to walk down that long, deep valley through those endless meadows."

6/27/1999, Sunday

Studio: MP3 files of Mars and vox edits and rough mix of *Party Girl*. I want to get S. to do the "help me" part a la Marilyn Monroe and Dave for a guitar part.

6/27/2010, Sunday

Pride Parade. Weather warm and breezy. Since I sit in the same place every year this is a repeat of every year.

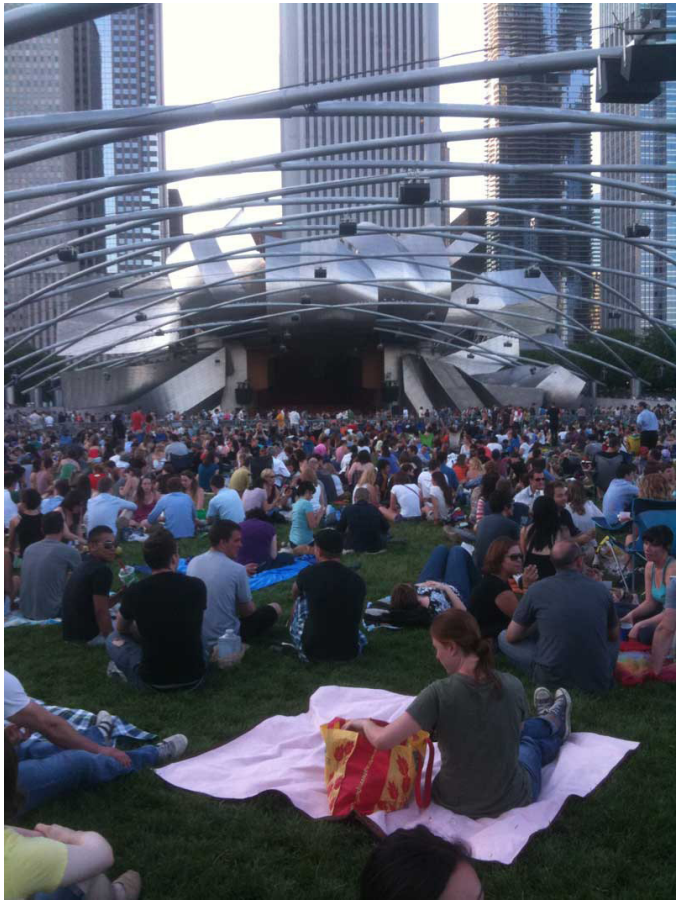
Much too long at almost 3 hours of some really dumb 'floats'. Took walk down to Diversey Harbor and Caldwell Lilly Pool.

6/27/2011

Blago convicted on 17 of 20 charges. Walked over to the courthouse at the noon hour. From "Fucking Golden", "Testicular Fortitude" to "Frankly I am stunned". I am so glad this is over (for now). I've really grown tired of watching any kind of news, especially those with panel commentaries. And why would anyone except lawyers want to watch a bunch of legal wonks talk about legal theories and how the legal system 'works' just because we have juries. Juries are part of the problem because they are so fraught with the imperfections of 'humanity'.

Politics is so suffused with celebrity these days, that more if this is bound to happen. Thinking one is above reproach is a common casualty of being human.

Stopped for free concert at MP by Glenn Hansard and the band Low. I liked them. Very minimal, especially in context with the space lyrics. Beautiful evening.



6/27/2013

Miro-Mondrian, 11”x14” acrylic on wool fabric

6/27/2016

A philosophy of bass: A bass part can be “skeletal” in nature. Some songs don’t need a bass part per se, and rather can be contrapuntal and melodic in nature, rath-

er than simply doubling the lower octave. How supportive the bass line or voice is really depends on the skill of the writer and/or performer, and the style of the music: In pop, a supportive bass part is married to the kick drum, but less so in jazz. I like to create parts that are pieces of music in themselves.

6/27/2020, Saturday

60s music was influenced by the recorded and broadcast music of previous generations (1910–1950) as that would have been what they had access to, unless they also learned from sheet music and scores, in which case classical works going back to the baroque.

60s music also was influenced by the art world, primarily Minimalism, where the pieces were more African-influenced (polyrhythms), more horizontal (less concerned with harmony and chord changes), and more likely to be pandiatonic in nature. I always thought that even though the roots of the Grateful Dead were folk, the jamming aspect of it came from jazz and minimalism. (Also consider the procedures used in aleatoric and electronic music which are also theoretical and had a huge influence on mid-60s experimentation).

6/27/2021, Sunday

As a continuation of the "Containers of Music" idea, I'm revisiting recorded music's intimate connection with cinema, and in context with the current album, photography as well.

Book: *The Free World: Art and Thought in the Cold War* by Louis Menand. A great book with lots of things that perhaps you didn't know before. But it has a "kitchen sink" quality to it, and you're not quite sure how most of it fits into the theme of the book, or at least the title. On TV: In the 1950s, many musicians claimed that they were transformed by musical artists that they saw on television, but it could have been that television itself transformed them. Mediums have a way making us believe we like things.

On the Beatles beach head in the US: Places are seldom how we imagine them to be. When the Beatles first came to the United States, they were expecting people to be dressed as they interpreted the fashion Customs at that time. But it was the exact opposite.

June 28ths

6/28/1930, Saturday

(Edward Weston Daybooks)

Weston is jubilant that Sonya sitting in the little Mexican chair could be a good pose and gets right to work. It could be a series.

6/28/1949

(Jack Kerouac Journal)

Jack Kerouac realizes that artifice is so close to reality that we sometimes can't tell them apart: "It is so much better to

explore things like that than silly imaginary questions like "Should teenage girls marry?"

50 years later...

6/28/1999

My dilemma: how do you develop an artist persona while working in an office? And if you do, how do you keep it separate, yet keep that side of you vibrant and alive? I really want to reinvent myself, but I'm in "stuck" mode.

Dinner of Thai and back to the studio to work on *Party Girl*. I have to be careful not to lose my objectivity with this. The background vocals really sound too Beatle-y for a song about a hooker.

6/28/2002, Friday

Hottest summer in years!

Went down to Taste of Chicago to scope the crowd/scene. Mostly drunk 20-somethings and hardly any music. MJ told me they did this purposely so as to keep people vigilant on terrorism: music is too distracting, unless you don't like it, it which case you'd be looking for terrorists. Strolled by Summer Dance stage—now this is fun! (I didn't see anyone looking for terrorists.) A guy came up to me and asked me for a hug.

6/28/2010

Dream: Stopped to see a band where one member was a register tape machine, with the paper coming out of what was shaped like a mouth. The ink was red. (Now that's a really avant-garde band...)

The word of the decade has become 'austerity'.

Elena Kagan confirmation hearings begin in Congress. The presumption is that Supreme Court justices are impartial and decide cases on the case law, but how could that begin to be true when it is being done by a human. I still think cases could be decided by robots. (Sometimes she reminds me of Bach).

6/28/2001

Jack Lemmon died at 76.

The digital world is immersed in an analog world.

Software is not philosophically important. The most important questions are human questions, old fashioned art and science are just as important as computers. Analog is more powerful than digital and was proven 20 years ago.

6/28/2008, Saturday

David Smith and Henry Moore sculptures, Art Institute North Garden.

6/28/2009, Sunday

I was curious about the possibilities of the iPhone being used as a musical instrument. So far it's been a disappointment. The primary problem is that the touch-screen is a poor controller for musical applications. Downloaded the DigiDrummer app thinking I could use it for capturing groove ideas. After having tried it, one wonders why someone would even spend the time trying to master it when the time could have been spent playing an actual instrument. Nonetheless there will be a new culture of musicians that will see a future in this as an instrument, but to not any large contribution to the pantheon of music history. I could be eating my words in 10 years, at which point I would have fared nicely without the use of iPhone drumming.

On music notation apps, a similar thud with Pocket Score. Why was I thinking that this would somehow be better than paper and pencil? I was a music copyist 20 years ago and did this with a quill, so one can imagine how loud the thud actually was.

I still have hopes that the device (with improvements) will be useful and interesting. Until that happens, I prefer my paper, quill and rusty dead strings.

6/28/2010

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6/28/2011

Turning Basin—favorite spot:

6/28/2013, Friday

Rainy summer so far. Deluge last night that 'flooded' my bathroom.

Black Hawks Victory Parade.

6/28/2018

1920s music was dead by the 1960s (or not memorable). Perhaps if you add 40 years to any genre (roughly 2 generations), the effects fade away. Nostalgia can revive it, but nostalgia has to be experienced by the people that have direct memories. Most revivals aren't as good as the real thing, but can be interesting. Try writing music in the style that your parents listened to (or wrote) when they were in their 20s. It can be copied, but the essences aren't there.

***

Sometimes sound will encode with the place you read something, such that re-reading or re-listening to something will bond place to memory. (I've noticed this while listening to podcasts or audio books while traveling: replaying the podcast will remind me of the place I first listened to it. Whether that enhances learning is unknown, but some kind of encoding happens in the brain with simultaneous stimuli.)

***

Consensus vision, or consensus of how beauty and art are defined, is more hardwired into culture. More people are apt to say "that's not art!" than say "that's not music!" or "that's not writing!" Perhaps a good analogy is Andy Warhol. Warhol's pop ethos had been synergistic with the rise of pop music, and avant-garde pop through the Velvet Underground. And yet, more people have contempt for Warhol's art than the music that

it inspired. I think aesthetics get different definitions and treatments.

6/28/2021

Podcast Episode: Containers of Music (Continued)[37]

6/28/2022

Russia strikes Mall. Also, 1/6 hearings: Cassidy Hutchinson—someone who has no direct memory of the Clinton sex scandal and the Bush administration, where it all started. Demanding to go to capitol, Trump apparently lunged for the limo wheel.

***

Every generation "owns" their sounds—even though they're older sounds and come from old synthesizers. Older musicians can use the sounds, which may seem new to younger generations, but we've been there before. But if I create the music as a continuation of the Red Scarf piece, then it's a part of the overall concept, with the music representing the individual "swatches" in the work. An artist can "own" a cultural artifact as a "quotation" rather than using it in such a way to suggest that it was new or proprietary or as a part of pop culture.

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37. https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/BLp-kQMAcvub

In my experience, when I've written songs based on bass lines, I typically use the piano or guitar to determine what the actual chord is. Very often when we create music that is bottom-up we wrongfully assume that each bass note is a root. And there are instances where there is no chord, and the bass line is more of a melody. Some music is simply monophonic, and doesn't require a harmonization.

You can also determine the underlying harmony on the bass with arpeggios and chordal playing in the upper register.

June 29ths

6/29/1989

(Keith Haring Journal)

"...The computer has totally changed the whole concept of what composes and defines a "picture space." The whole relation between the creator and the viewer has changed. The relationship between the physical gesture of drawing and the resultant image has changed...."

6/29/1999

No Exit Cafe closes after 40 years.

Lunch with L. She brought me two gifts, a bottle of creamy Italian dressing and a head of Boston lettuce. I actually thought this was touching. (What do you get the man that has everything)? She also showed me

some of her "palimpsest" pieces, partially exposed to Polaroids. She explained the entire process in detail, step by step. Why does she want to give her secrets away?

6/29/2003, Sunday

Pride Parade 2003:

6/29/2004

Interesting: Sam Raimi, director of the *Spider-Man* films is building the "Century Cam" placed above all major American cities and shoot one frame, a 24th of a second of film per day for a thousand years. (Like time lapse photography, but over an outrageous amount of time. The cameras would capture human rebuilding and demolition. (Stewart Brand would love this). Viewers could watch decades of change in minutes.

New wrinkle: "Branded entertainment" (the program and the commercials, advertisements as one product... no need to have a commercial because it's suffused in the program). It is also called convergence, paradigm shift.

New wrinkle: "New Urbanism" movement in architecture. The goal of the movement is to revive urban planning from the past when cities were a melange of homes, shops, restaurants—and away from strip malls and office parks. Basically you have "outposts" (Stops on the rail lines) communities develop around it.

Democracy assumes liberalism. The more conservative you become, the less democracy you have.

Bob Dylan reluctantly accepts honorary degree. that's like making an atheist a bishop. You don't need high degrees in order to make substantial contributions to culture. In fact, too much education stops you from doing just that.

6/29/2010

First Atlantic hurricane, Alex, enters gulf. Early...

Tony Tasset's *Eyeball* almost finished. I will wait to see the public reaction. I think it is too literal, and looks cheap up close. Big public sculptures may be more interesting if they are abstract and less literal. Oldenberg sculptures are very effective in this regard. They are literal and obvious representations of common objects, but they hint at a certain degree of ambiguity. Cloud

Gate resembles a bean and consequently became its moniker. It may look like a cloud, but not knowing its title, most would apply the visual onomatopoeia.

Our visual bias frequently intersects with language. Interesting: visual colloquialism, visual bromide

Calder was excellent at public sculpture as they are abstracted organic forms. There is not much that one can do with a sphere to make it an abstraction of something.

6/29/2011

Another gorgeous day. Nothing going on at work. L. started a new job in Evanston about 2 weeks ago. She's tired and doesn't want to work at all. Funny, even people in their 30s are saying the same thing. The Beat generation lives on.

6/29/2018, Friday

In previous eras, it was talent. Now it involves skill with using software, which also makes it easier to remix and recycle. Some people might be more talented in creating hooks, or catchy fragments that can evolve into full pieces. Personally, I have been in the habit of being observant and capturing my ideas as they arise, including title ideas, or lyric fragments. After a while you accumulate hundreds or thousands of fragments, any of which can grow into full pieces.

6/29/2020

Every artist can be interdisciplinary to some degree. When I was a child I had a proclivity for visual art, and soon thereafter I started writing, then got into music as a formal course of study. What you should want to do is to develop more curiosity which will lead to more creative insights. Courage is also something to develop as an artist, which will make you less likely to avoid trying something that you don't think you're particularly good at. Even then, just doing those things, however provisional will lead to more creative insights. It's all about staying in motion.

June 30ths

6/30/1930

(Weston Daybooks)

Weston writes in The Carmelite that son Brett's work is in the same vein, i.e. that the way one can learn anything is by working...no one can teach another how to see.

6/30/1998

Dream: I was at some type of hearing or awards ceremony where I represented England. They called me up for my award, but told me that I'd have to wear a costume. I went backstage and there were elderly ladies washing clothes (I guess my costume) and I asked them what it was, and they said "a cute little fairy outfit with spandex and such."

***

My interest in music is largely the result of "mind-expanding experiences" in my teens. And now that it's over, I think that perhaps it was a mistake. If I spent 20 years pretending, doing something that I was never designed to do, even though I'm a master of music at this point. This has happened to other people, such as surgeons, when they realize as they're slicing into someone, "Hey, should I be doing this?

6/30/2001, Saturday

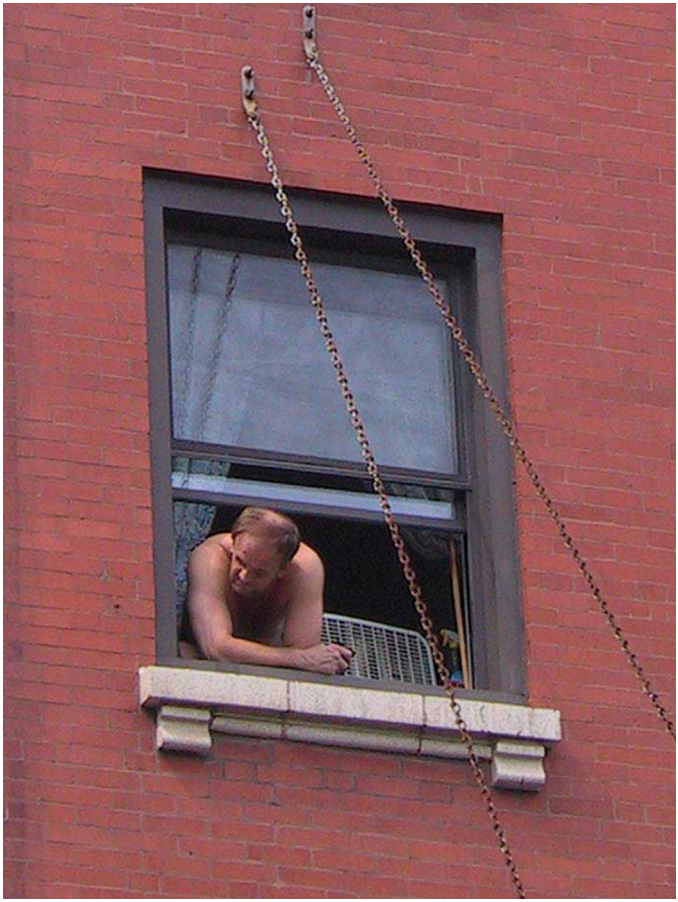
Impression: Bill Kurtis. He traveled the world and found that he resonated with a simple place like Kansas. Everyone has one place where they fit in perfectly. Like P. in Colorado. What is my place?

***

Went to Davis Theater to see *AI*. It had its moments, good and bad. I'd love to see it again, but that circus part I just want to skip. Kubrick was always like that: brilliant moments spoiled by stupid stuff. Things I liked: the "designed" scenes, camera angles, reflections, and so on. If they repeated some of that throughout the film, it would have made it 100% better. Also, the Amen people circa 4500 HD.

6/30/2002, Sunday

At Pride Parade taking some photographs. Lots of people hanging out of windows:



6/30/2013, Sunday

Pride Parade. Weather was unseasonably chilly and windy.

The event is now more or less an excuse for a party for straight people. While people support gay rights, the support is largely superficial or stereotypical I suspect. Each year the parade seems to occur on the heels of some landmark Supreme Court decision. This year it was defeat of DOMA and Prop 8.

6/30/2018, Saturday

Studio "Rings": River Blyth, Chapter VI. This nicely demonstrates the desultory nature of the book: At the beginning of this chapter we are at a bridge at the River Blyth, and all of a sudden we are in 19th century China. This particular track is a remix from "Chinese Interior" in The Thorne Rooms, my own side-turning.

6/30/2020

A sense of curiosity is more important than creativity in many ways. Everything grows out of initial ideas, and the artist, scientist, or entrepreneur uses creativity to objectify those ideas.

Creativity is achieved through working with the ideas, or sometimes abandoning them or re-retooling them. Innovation and creativity are sometimes interchangeable in the sense that they sometimes require exploring

more extreme ideas as a way to locate the center or core essence of the idea.

6/30/2021

Podcast Episode: They Are Already Here: UFO Culture and Why We See Saucers[38]

6/30/2022

Dream: Fragment 1: Someone was doing a demonstration/experiment with a line of speakers where a sound was emitted through one and propagated through the others, fading out in the process (entropy); Fragment 2: I was telling someone about having that dream (dream within a dream); Fragment 3: I was in an office and preparing for a presentation of some kind. I overheard a woman bemoaning the fact that certain judges were appointed.

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Even more that harming other people by focusing on the self, one can harm people even more by focusing on what other people expect of you. You're expected to live up to expectations of success that aren't really your own and can't become a conscientious defector. that's how people become ensnared by authoritarians and develop Stockholm Syndrome.

38. https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/ufESIhrcvub